



National Coalition for **CORE ARTS** Standards

AATE | AEP | The College Board | EdTA | NAFME | NAEA | NDEO | SEADAE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 26, 2011

Contact: Cory Wilkerson
800-587-6814

The College Board releases two research reports to support next generation of National Standards for Arts Education

The College Board, in partnership with the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS), has released two new research reports designed to support the revision of the National Arts Education Standards.

The College Board, an NCCAS partner, is undertaking several research projects for the coalition. NCCAS is committed to developing a next generation of voluntary arts education standards that will build on the foundation created by the 1994 document, support the 21st-century needs of students and teachers, help ensure that all students are college and career ready, and affirm the place of arts education in a balanced core curriculum.

The International Arts Education Standards: A Survey of the Arts Education Standards and Practices of Fifteen Countries and Regions outlines existing international standards and/or benchmarks for arts education in more than a dozen of the world's most educationally advanced countries.

Arts Education Standards and 21st Century Skills is an analysis of the relationship between the 1994 National Standards for Arts Education and the 21st Century Skills Map in the Arts, published by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills.

The International Arts Education Standards report includes summaries of standards and practices, and includes a cross-referenced chart of common themes and ideas from Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Scotland, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela. The arts standards of these countries were identified by NCCAS as exemplar resources for the coalition's writers and reviewers in their upcoming standards revision work. The report was prepared by College Board researchers Amy Charleroy and Matt Schatz, with assistance from Charles Gentry of Columbia University, New York, under the direction of Dr. Nancy Rubino of The College Board's Office of Academic Initiatives.

The *Arts Education Standards and 21st Century Skills* report offers an analysis of the level of alignment between the current arts content standards and the skills, lesson examples, and outcomes included in the P21 Arts Map, across three grade bands in the disciplines of music, dance, visual art, and theatre. The arts map, created by the NCCAS professional education association members and released in 2010, identifies creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication, and nine other skills developed through arts learning. NCCAS expects alignment with 21st century skills to be a fundamental aspect of the next generation of arts standards. The report was prepared by Dr. Rubino, Amy Charleroy, and Charles Gentry.

Trevor Packer, the College Board's Senior Vice-President in charge of College Readiness, called the reports another step forward for arts education and consistent with the Board's Arts at the Core initiative. "The report on the International Arts Standards is something we've never really had before. I'm sure this can help inform NCCAS's efforts and aid a wide range of researchers and decision makers in their own analysis of arts education practices. The gap analysis of the 21st Century Skills Map and the 1994 art standards affirm the value of both and perhaps suggests the work that needs to be done on the next generation of standards."

The College Board reports also were greeted by praise from the states, particularly encouraging given the important role state departments of education will need to play in the adoption of the next generation of standards. NCCAS partner the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) is leading the effort to garner state-level support for the revision project.

Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner Terry Holliday, Ph.D. said, "We're delighted to see The College Board working with SEADAE and the arts associations to develop arts standards. In Kentucky, we are strongly supportive of a balanced approach to student development with a focus on the arts."

Scott Shuler, Ph.D., the arts specialist for the Connecticut Department of Education, said the arts education community owes a debt of gratitude to The College Board for helping the field build new national standards on a solid foundation of research. "As a result of our collaboration with this fine organization, the resulting version of our nation's National Core Arts Standards will be both child-friendly and world class."

The College Board expects to release two more research strands in the near future: one focusing on college level arts standards benchmarks, including expectations of students enrolled in non-major arts courses; and another that will offer a comprehensive review of preK-12 arts education and child development, including practices that address students' cognitive, social, and emotional needs.

To find out more about the College Board's education initiatives go to <http://advocacy.collegeboard.org/preparation-access/arts-core>

To view the two research reports noted here visit the NCCAS wiki page at <http://nccas.wikispaces.com>.