

Proposed Kentucky Academic Standards in Arts and Humanities

Key Points

- New arts and humanities standards are mandated by Kentucky Senate Bill 1 (2009). The proposed arts and humanities standards conform to the requirements outlined in the legislation.
- The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards, a coalition of national arts and education organizations and media arts representatives led by Kentucky educator Phil Shepherd, developed the new standards and involved more than 70 writers with the input of more than 6,000 reviewers including several thousand from Kentucky.
- The proposed arts and humanities standards are designed to engage students in the processes used to create and understand artistic expression.
- The proposed standards are built upon four artistic processes – creating; performing, presenting and producing; responding; and connecting – and 11 main standards in five disciplines: dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts.
- The proposed arts and humanities standards include discipline-specific performance standards.
- The Kentucky Board of Education reviewed draft arts and humanities standards at its October meeting; a second reading has been delayed in order to gain more feedback from teachers and the public on the proposed standards and to work with teacher and university faculty to develop more details/content specifics.
- Public input is being sought on the proposed standards from Nov. 3 until December 5 through an online survey based on discipline:
For Visual Arts: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYVisualArts>
For Music: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYMusic>
For Theatre: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYTheatre>
For Media Arts: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYMediaArts>
For Dance: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYDance>
- Because the Kentucky Department of Education anticipates a large response, Kentucky Board of Education action will be delayed until after the December meeting so that feedback and comments can be reviewed and any needed revisions made before bringing forward final sets of proposed standards to the board for action.
- Once approved, the arts and humanities standards will be rolled out through state and regional professional learning, including online and face-to-face opportunities. Tentatively, pending approval, the new arts and humanities standards would be taught for the first time in the 2015-16 school year.