

Government Relations Report, to VBODA Board, June 18, 2014

## National Standards

NCCAS national standards for music are now posted on the NAFME web page. You are encouraged to review, particularly to note the radical change from the 1994 standards. The new standards are focused on individual student growth and are organized based on the Understanding By Design methodology. The new standards are linked to the Common Core. The new standards are very comprehensive and are more like a curriculum than benchmark standards. Model assessment components are included. NAFME indicates an intention to develop additional model assessments. Please refer to the NAFME webpage for more detailed information. NAFME has been the major leader of the revision of the national standards for the arts.

It is important to note that the new standards are voluntary, as were the 1994 standards. As is the custom, Virginia will likely not adopt these new standards, since we have our own Standards of Learning. This has typically been the Virginia position on all national standards, including the Common Core.

Certainly, an advantage to using the new standards as a reference relates to ideas about how to address individual student growth as part of current teacher evaluations.

The Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education (of which VMEA is a founding member) provided a response to the new fine arts standards that was less than positive. (See attached VCFAE response.) Cherry Gardner, Principal Specialist of Fine Arts at DOE also pulled together a group earlier in the process. The response of that group was also less than positive. So, from Virginia's perspective we have found the new standards less than useful. Individually, you will need to make up your own mind and how or if you may find them useful in your classroom.

## Remediation position statement

As chair of the Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education, I will present a position statement to the Virginia Board of Education on June 26 regarding the scheduling of remediation and its impact on fine arts instruction. Even with the elimination of five SOL tests (down to 29!), pull out for remediation will persist. (Please see the attached copy of the draft statement.)

Thank you for the continuing support of our efforts on your behalf. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Steve King  
Government Relations Chair