

# NYSATA Resolutions 2007-2008

The following Resolutions were presented to the membership at the 2007 Conference:

## **NYSATA 2007/2008 RESOLUTIONS**

### **1. REAUTHORIZATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, There have been increasing concerns about the influence of the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* on school curriculum, including the visual arts, AND

WHEREAS, These concerns have led to a draft reauthorization proposal that could give a boost to subjects (including the arts) that have been negatively impacted by the federal law, AND

WHEREAS, Recent draft of changes to NCLB released featured incentives for states to broaden student testing to subjects such as the arts which are not currently required, AND

Whereas, The Reauthorization of NCLB appears to be stalled in the Congress (a situation that likely will result in reauthorization without changes),

RESOLVED, NYSATA's President urge New York's U.S. Senators and U.S Representatives to work to reauthorize NCLB with the proposed changes regarding the arts.

### **2. AVAILABILITY OF HIGH SCHOOL ARTS SEQUENCE**

WHEREAS, Although the NY State Education Department (NYSED) Regulations [*Part 100.2(h)*] no longer require Sequences for graduation, the Regulations do require a Sequence if a student wants a Diploma with Advanced Designation, AND

WHEREAS, Regulations require that all public school districts offer students both the opportunity to complete a three- or five-unit sequence in each of the arts, and the opportunity to begin an approved sequence in the arts in grade nine, AND

WHEREAS, Students completing a five-unit sequence in subjects including the visual arts must meet the graduation requirements for the total number of units of credit but are not required to complete the additional two units of the language other than English requirement for a diploma with advanced designation, AND

WHEREAS, As a result of the changes, there has been some confusion regarding the status of the Arts Sequences in the revised SED Part 100 Regulations,

RESOLVED, NYSATA urge NYSED to send an updated advisory to NYS schools to inform administrators of the current requirements.

### **3. STANDARDS REVIEW IN THE ARTS**

WHEREAS, It has been over a decade since the NYS Learning Standards, including Standards in the Arts, have been adopted; AND

WHEREAS, The State Education Department proposed to the Regents that a Review of all Standards be undertaken, including a Review of the Arts Standards, AND

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WHEREAS, NYSATA participated in the original drafting of the Arts Standards,

RESOLVED, The President of NYSATA send a letter to the Regents and the State Education Department urging a timely scheduling of the Review and offering the Association's collaboration in the Review.

## **4. IMPORTANCE OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARTS**

WHEREAS, The NYS State Education Department (SED) has proposed that schools focus professional development on effective practices in areas in which academic needs are greatest, AND

WHEREAS, SED requires that all Districts engage in staff development aimed at helping teachers enable students to achieve all 28 Learning Standards, AND

WHEREAS, The Arts are part of the essential core necessary for students to achieve a full education and to be competitive in the 21st century,

RESOLVED, NYSATA's President will request that the Regents revise its goals to include staff development in the arts to improve student achievement across the curriculum, AND

FURTHER RESOLVED, NYSATA request the SED inform New York's K-12 schools of SED's recognition, support and encouragement of the utilization of Staff Development in the arts.

## **5. THE ARTS IN Career Development & Occupational Studies (CDOS), AND Career and Technical Education (CTE)**

WHEREAS, State and National CDOS Standards include the Arts, AND

WHEREAS, NYSED policy indicates that select courses in CDOS and CTE may be used to fulfill the 1 unit of art required for graduation, AND

WHEREAS, Students opting to use those select courses for art credit are expected to achieve the art standards although there is no NYSED oversight for accountability regarding achievement those standards,

RESOLVED, NYSATA will ask NYSED to require validation of achievement of the arts standards through means such as high performance on the State Arts Assessment or some other valid and reliable measure of achievement.

## **6. ACADEMIC INTERVENTION**

WHEREAS, NYSED has established the necessity for all students to achieve success in the 28 Learning Standards, including the visual arts, AND

WHEREAS, regulations proscribe the necessity for Academic Intervention (AI) when students

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do not meet the Learning Standards according to AI indicators drawn solely from the results of standardized tests in the English Language Arts and Mathematics, AND

WHEREAS, NYSED Regulations state that AI should not prevent a student from achieving any Learning Standard, and suggest that AI can take place in the context of an extended day, despite the fact that many students from cannot participate in an extended day,

RESOLVED, NYSATA contact SED to request that they to assist districts in finding solutions to the need for AI that do not negatively impact student access to sequential learning in standards areas such as visual arts.

## 7. SUPPORT FOR THE STATE ASSESSMENT IN THE ARTS

WHEREAS, The New York State Learning Standards including the Learning Standards in the visual arts, are being implemented in the schools, AND

WHEREAS, The Standards call for assessments to report student success in achieving those standards, AND

WHEREAS, NYSED has a goal of providing a statewide system of accountability based on reliable data reporting student success in achieving all standards, AND

WHEREAS, NYSATA has worked with the NYSED to develop the NYS Assessment in the Arts to provide valid and reliable data on student success in the visual arts,

RESOLVED, NYSED will be informed of NYSATA's continuing commitment to completion and implementation of the New York State Assessment in the Arts.

## 8. SUPPORT FOR IMPORTANCE OF STUDY IN THE ARTS

WHEREAS, A recent Boston Globe article reports that the arts require systematic thinking and perception rarely addressed elsewhere in the curriculum, AND

WHEREAS, A recent National Education Association Resolution asserted "that pre-K through adult education curricula must include a balanced, comprehensive, and sequential program of fine arts instruction for all students," AND

WHEREAS, The Center on Education Policy recently issued a report, *Choices, Changes, and Challenges: Curriculum and Instruction in the NCLB Era*, which encourages states to consider including measures of knowledge and skills in art ... among the multiple measures used for NCLB accountability,"

RESOLVED, NYSATA will provide a structure to disseminate, to the field and to the public, these and other important research results and expressions of support that validate the importance of visual arts instruction and learning in the schools.