

# PLANNING AN ARTS EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

## *DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARTS EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN*

There are three major resources that have been proven helpful in guiding and supporting the process of district assessment and plan development in the area of arts education.

### **1. The Arts Education Program Toolkit**

The Arts Education Program Toolkit: A Visual and Performing Arts Assessment Process is available through CDE Press (1-800-995-4099) in hard copy format.

A portion of this toolkit is included in the Visual and Performing Arts Framework, 2004 as Appendix D: Continuum for Implementing Arts Education Programs. The Toolkit, including its Continuum, speak to the important pieces of an arts education program that a district must consider. An important first step in preparing the educators to do the assessment and plan development is strengthen their own understanding of the intent of standards-based arts instruction for all students as reflected in the Visual and Performing Arts Framework. The Continuum and its grid help in identifying the elements that are required for the implementation of a quality arts education program. Quoting the Framework, “The concept of a continuum acknowledges the many points that exist along the way toward reaching a goal. Using the continuum helps educators in identifying the strengths or a program and the areas that need improvement as districts work toward full implementation of instruction in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts for all students.”

The Toolkit identifies focus areas of a strong sequential arts education instructional program. The foundational focus areas include a standards-based curriculum, supporting instruction and methodology, on-going professional development for educators, student assessment, and on-going program evaluation. After assessment of these critical areas an improvement plan is developed and implemented. As the district continues to improve its arts instruction, areas such as facilities, standards-aligned instructional materials, texts, supplies, and equipment are assessed. An improvement plan is developed for these areas and implemented. The final stages of improvement assessment include the use of community resources to support the standards-based instructional program.

The MAP Toolkit Website provides an on-line electronic version the toolkit. After submission of data is complete, a variety of reports can be printed out. Contact [ncarr@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ncarr@cde.ca.gov) for further information.

The Visual and Performing Arts Framework, 2004, is available through CDE Press, and may be downloaded, by going to [www.cde.da.gov/re/pn/fd](http://www.cde.da.gov/re/pn/fd).

### **2. The California Arts Project**

The California Arts Project (TCAP), the subject matter project for visual and performing arts, offers support in evaluating current school or district programs and in developing arts education plans. The university- K-12 based network consists of leaders in arts education K through post secondary organized around six regional TCAP sites which provide professional development support to improve the teaching and learning in the arts.

Their collaborative approach to developing a school or district plan provides a strong professional development component for all involved in the process of program evaluation and arts planning/development. The assessment process provides both a foundational understanding of the Framework for those involved and includes capturing of school and/or district data. A written report and on-line data collection provides both a vehicle to capture and record progress over time in improving arts instruction. The assessment focuses on key areas identified in the Arts Education Toolkit including standards-based arts curriculum, instruction, and professional development. The TCAP process is customized to meet schools' or districts' specific needs through individual arrangements made between TCAP regional sites. Contact your regional TCAP site, [www.tcap.net](http://www.tcap.net) TCAP Leadership and Development Center, (909) 537 7542.

### **3. The Community Arts Education Project, PTA**

The PTA's "SMARTS: Bring Back the Arts" project supports quality arts education at every school in California. Their strategy manual is available on their website providing guidance regarding arts education programs in our public schools. You may download this guide at <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs-smarts/index.cfm>

### **Additional Questions?**

Contact your Visual and Performing Arts Consultant at the California Department of Education [ncarr@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ncarr@cde.ca.gov)