

PROVIDERS OF CLASSROOM VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS INSTRUCTION (DANCE, MUSIC, THEATRE, VISUAL ARTS)

There is a renewed scrutiny due to NCLB and the Williams Case about who can provide instruction in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts in California's public schools. The comments below are in response to the many questions received asking who can do the teaching of the arts.

- Visual and Performing Arts (otherwise known as “the arts”) is a NCLB core academic subject. California, in response to NCLB directive to determine their state definition of “the arts”, defines the arts as dance, music, theatre and visual arts.
- NCLB requires that all teachers of core academic subjects be NCLB compliant. That compliancy comes in three parts: a) the teacher holds a Bachelor's Degree in the subject taught; b) the teacher holds the appropriate credential to provide that instruction; and c) the teacher evidences that they know the content of the subject they are instruction with that evidence provided through the three avenues of NCLB process – exam, course work hours, or use of the HOUSSE process. See the NCLB Teacher Requirements Resource Guide at www.cde.ca.gov/nclb for further information regarding the process.
- The Williams Case indicates that there must be equity in the delivery of instruction for all students by highly qualified teachers.
- Education Codes 512110 (for grades 1-6) and 51220 (for grades 7-12) speak to instruction of the subjects of dance, music, theatre and visual arts, with emphasis upon the development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative expression.
- Education Code 8810 speaks to the need to include arts in the school curriculum as a means of improving the quality of education offered in California's public schools and reinforcing basic skills, knowledge, and understanding.
- UC/CSU requires one year of visual and performing arts of their applicants for admission.

With the advent of NCLB, the Williams Case, and the Education Codes cited above, it is a new day for arts education instruction. Delivery of instruction is the responsibility of the credentialed teacher. This calls for strong professional development for the generalist teacher and the arts specialist teachers to be able to design and deliver standards-based arts instruction for all students. *See the Considerations for Professional Development and Professional Development Options Considerations guidelines for further comments on Professional Development.*