

FINE ARTS

POLICY

The Halifax Regional School Board is committed to providing a program of excellence in the Fine Arts, throughout its jurisdiction, which make it possible for all students to reach their learning potential.

This commitment requires ongoing support by the Board, administrative staff and Fine Arts teachers for the delivery of Fine Arts Programs in all schools. The Board is also committed to encouraging the widespread involvement of parents and the broader community in meeting its goal in Fine Arts education

The vision for Fine Arts education in the Halifax Regional School Board includes a wide range of learning experiences in each of dance, drama, music and the visual arts.

The enhancement of existing programs and the initiation of new programs by the Board are fundamental to realizing quality Fine Arts Programs for all students.

The Board is committed to Fine Arts programming which acknowledges and values the cultural diversity of its school communities.

1.0 GOALS

- 1.1 The Board will provide access to Fine Arts Programs for all students (P-12).
- 1.2 The Board will ensure that the Fine Arts Programs at all levels (P-12) are taught by qualified teachers with appropriate training in Fine Arts theory and instruction.
- 1.3 The Board will provide support for Fine Arts Programs by appointing a Coordinator to facilitate the delivery of programs, provide assistance in the hiring of teachers and provide on-going support to maintain direction and develop Fine Arts Programs.
- 1.4 Funding must be provided to ensure that appropriate staff, professional development, materials, equipment and facilities are available to support Fine Arts Programs.

- 1.5 The Board will maintain and develop partnerships with arts organizations, professional artists, and the community to ensure expanded and diverse opportunities are available to augment current Fine Arts programming.
- 1.6 The Board will ensure the development and implementation of Fine Arts Programs which foster and respect the cultural diversity of school communities.
- 1.7 The Board will ensure that the Fine Arts implementation plan is evaluated and updated on an annual basis.

2.0 PROGRAM

- 2.1 Fine Arts programming is an essential component of every student's education as stated in the graduation outcomes of the *Public School Programs*.
 - 2.1.1 All students, grades P-12, in the Halifax Regional School Board shall be provided with quality Fine Arts Programs.
 - 2.1.2 The components of a Fine Arts Program are dance, drama, music and visual arts. A range of Fine Arts Programs must be provided in order to meet the diverse learning needs of students and to enable all students to develop to their full potential.
 - 2.1.3 Programs offered in schools or families-of-schools may differ, but will be of the same high quality in terms of the access to resource material and program support.
- 2.2 The Halifax Regional School Board recognizes the high quality of existing Fine Arts Programs and wishes to build for the future on existing foundations.
 - 2.2.1 Fine Arts Programs will be comprehensive and cumulative in nature enabling students to build on their arts experiences in a planned sequential manner and to achieve the Essential Graduation Learnings of the *Public School Programs*.
 - 2.2.2 In meeting the diverse requirements of our students, Fine Arts Programs will provide students with balanced learning opportunities to:
 - i) actively engage in the process of making/creating works in the Fine Arts;

- ii) place the Fine Arts in diverse cultural and historical contexts;
- iii) develop critical thinking skills and appropriate aesthetic response;
- iv) meet the requirements of the diverse special populations present in our schools.

2.3 Quality Fine Arts Programs shall be taught by teachers whose education and expertise reflects theory and instruction in the Fine Arts area being offered and who are competent to teach their specific Arts discipline.

2.3.1 By the year 2003 there shall be qualified Fine Arts teachers in each area of the Arts in each family-of-schools.

2.3.2 For the purpose of staffing Fine Arts Programs, a flexible approach combining site-based and the family-of-schools model is essential to meet the needs of the school and community.

2.4 Provincial funding allocated by the Board for Fine Arts shall be shared in an equitable manner.

2.5 The school level involvement of practising artists, community Arts Groups and Arts resources in the Fine Arts curriculum is to be encouraged for program variation and enrichment.

3.0 PROGRAM SUPPORT

3.1 The Board will designate a Coordinator of Fine Arts responsible for:

- i) Coordination of Fine Arts Programs, resources, equipment and professional development;
- ii) Support of schools in the development of Fine Arts Programs;
- iii) Assisting administrators in the supervision of instruction, curriculum and in determining appropriate staffing for the Fine Arts.

3.1.1 The person filling this position will have expertise and experience in Fine Arts education.

3.1.2 A central budget will be provided for system activities administered by the coordinator.

- 3.1.3 The Coordinator will be responsible for support for the four areas of Fine Arts. The Coordinator may receive further support from teachers with expertise in a specific Fine Arts discipline, where necessary. Where teachers with Fine Arts expertise are required to provide support, time will be formally allocated as a portion of their teaching assignment.
- 3.2 The Board shall provide space for teaching which is appropriate to the specific needs of the different Fine Arts Programs.
 - 3.2.1 Where it is required on the basis of the interest of students, space should be made available to allow students and Fine Arts teacher(s) to assemble from various schools for program variation and enrichment. This will ensure that existing facilities and space will continue to be provided and will be expanded as programs require.
- 3.3 The Board will provide appropriate professional development for teachers of the Fine Arts to support their professional growth as educators.

FINE ARTS

PROCEDURES AND IMPLEMENTATION

1.0 CO-ORDINATOR OF FINE ARTS

The survival and enhancement of Fine Arts Programs are contingent upon the appointment of a Coordinator of Fine Arts. To ensure that the goals of the policy are achieved, the Coordinator shall perform the following functions:

- 1.1 co-ordinate the delivery of programs, including providing assistance in the hiring of teachers and on-going support with respect to course content from P to 12 to maintain direction and develop Fine Arts Programs. This includes the following:
 - 1.1.1 consult with principals in the hiring of Fine Arts teachers including co-ordinating the hiring of teachers to deliver programs to more than one school in a family-of-schools;
 - 1.1.2 by the year 2000, the Coordinator of Fine Arts shall provide a resource list to all principals of those teachers employed in the system or those candidates for future teaching opportunities who are trained and qualified for specific Arts courses. This resource list will be updated on a yearly basis;
 - 1.1.3 develop and oversee professional development and in-service training for Fine Arts teachers and support those teachers seeking to upgrade their qualifications in the teaching of Fine Arts;
 - 1.1.4 act as a liaison between senior administration and schools on matters relating to program and staff development in the Fine Arts;
 - 1.1.5 support and address the health and safety concerns of Fine Arts teachers and students;
 - 1.1.6 support and encourage communication of Fine Arts issues among principals, teachers, students and the community throughout the Halifax Regional School Board;
 - 1.1.7 prepare implementation plans and projections for the Fine Arts and review them as necessary;
 - 1.1.8 oversee and foster the co-ordination of special Fine Arts events for students and/or teachers across the Halifax Regional School Board;

- 1.1.9 assist principals with the supervision and evaluation of Fine Arts teachers;
- 1.1.10 oversee the present all-cities programs to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of these programs.
- 1.2 advocate for Fine Arts Education, taking a leadership role in assisting elementary and secondary schools to strive for excellence in the development and implementation of Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts Programs. This includes the following:
 - 1.2.1 maintain communication with the Department of Education;
 - 1.2.2 co-ordinate and provide a leadership role for *Challenge for Credit*;
 - 1.2.3 integrate technology into the Fine Arts curriculum;
 - 1.2.4 initiate community partnerships to enhance the Fine Arts Programs;
 - 1.2.5 provide assistance in making application to the Department of Education for locally developed courses beyond those listed in the *Public School Programs*.
- 1.3 co-ordinate the delivery of services and equipment including overseeing decisions concerning:
 - 1.3.1 maintenance, purchase, inventory and usage of music instruments;
 - 1.3.2 maintenance, use and expansion of the Music Library;
 - 1.3.3 maintenance and usage of the ceramics lab;
 - 1.3.4 distribution, cataloguing, maintenance and upkeep of equipment, supplies and materials for the Fine Arts programs.
- 1.4 promote the development of Fine Arts Programs which reflect the cultural diversity of the student population of Halifax Regional School Board.

The Coordinator shall administer a central budget provided for Halifax Regional School Board Fine Arts activities.

The Coordinator will be responsible for support for the four areas of Fine Arts. The coordinator shall receive further support from teachers with expertise in a specific

Fine Arts discipline where necessary. Where teachers with Fine Arts expertise are required to provide support, time will be formally allocated as a portion of their teaching assignment.

2.0 HIRING OF STAFF

- 2.1 The existing complement of Fine Arts teachers in the Halifax Regional School Board shall be maintained.
- 2.2 Teachers who are hired to teach Fine Arts courses shall have appropriate training in Fine Arts theory and instruction and be competent to teach their specific Arts discipline.
- 2.3 The Coordinator shall assist the principal in the hiring of Fine Arts teachers.

3.0 PROGRAM DELIVERY

- 3.1 It is a belief of the Halifax Regional School Board that the Arts are visible evidence of a dynamic culture and are fundamental for full human development. Therefore, the Halifax Regional School Board will provide Arts opportunities for students to develop their abilities in creative expression as both active participants and observers.

4.0 BUDGET

- 4.1 The Halifax Regional School Board will ensure budget preparations include adequate operating funds for staff professional development, materials, equipment and facilities for the Fine Arts Program.
- 4.2 In addition to the operating budget, funding is recommended to provide for the expansion of Fine Arts infrastructure in the Halifax Regional School Board.

5.0 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 The Halifax Regional School Board will provide professional development for teachers of the Fine Arts to support their professional growth as educators.

6.0 PROVIDING FACILITIES

- 6.1 Central Fine Arts facilities shall be maintained and expanded in order to provide space for such things as:
 - 6.1.1 possible centralized instruction;
 - 6.1.2 housing of music and art libraries;
 - 6.1.3 storage of instruments;
 - 6.1.4 storage of theatre lighting equipment; and
 - 6.1.5 the ceramic lab.
- 6.2 Facilities will be upgraded and/or created to provide appropriate and safe physical space to serve existing and future Fine Arts Programs in the Halifax Regional School Board.
- 6.3 Corporate sponsorship may be pursued for the upgrading of existing auditoriums and performance spaces so students will benefit from access to improved facilities and equipment.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- 7.1 Plan for the best possible co-ordination of regional Fine Arts Programs.
- 7.2 Over the next year the Board will survey all spaces available for the teaching of Fine Arts Programs and make recommendations for their upgrade and a timeline for their completion.
- 7.3 The Board will survey buildings to determine the best possible sites, where space is available, to allow for program variation and enrichment on a regional or area basis.
- 7.4 By the year 2002 there shall be qualified Fine Arts teachers in each area of the Arts in each family-of-schools.
- 7.5 By the year 2000 the Coordinator of Fine Arts shall provide a resource list to all principals of those teachers employed in the system or those candidates for future teaching opportunities who are trained and qualified for specific Arts courses. This resource list will be updated on a yearly basis.
- 7.6 Develop a plan to integrate technology into the Fine Arts curriculum.

- 7.7 In addition to the operating budget, a fund of \$100,000.00 per year for the next five years is recommended to provide for expansion of Fine Arts infrastructure in the Halifax Regional School Board.
- 7.8 The Coordinator will aid in developing a protocol for the collection and use of rental revenues for musical instruments and their maintenance
- 7.9 Develop a plan to coordinate the regional utilization and access to the music library.
- 7.10 Develop a plan to coordinate regional access to the ceramic lab.
- 7.11 Evaluate and update implementation plan on an annual basis.
- 7.12 Pursue community partnership initiatives to enhance Fine Arts Programs.
- 7.13 Implement Fine Arts curriculum guidelines as they are developed by the Department of Education.
- 7.14 Identify schools in the Halifax Regional School Board to pilot Fine Arts Programs as they are developed by the Department of Education.
- 7.15 Develop and implement locally developed Fine Arts courses beyond those listed in the *Public School Programs* document.
- 7.16 The Halifax Regional School Board will pursue with the Department of Education the possibility of offering Dance 11 as a pilot for the 1998-1999 school year.

8.0 FINE ARTS PROGRAMS AND IMPLEMENTATION

The vision for Fine Arts education in the Halifax Regional School Board includes a wide range of learning experience in each of dance, drama, music and the visual arts. To ensure all students in the Halifax Regional School Board reach their learning potential, quality Fine Arts Programs must be provided using a phased in implementation plan. The following provide a view of implementation for each of the Fine Arts.

8.1 DANCE

- 8.1.1 The Halifax Regional School Board will pursue with the Department of Education the possibility of offering Dance 11 as a pilot for the 1998-1999 school year.

- 8.1.2 As dance curriculum is developed by the province, program offerings will be expanded at all levels.
- 8.1.3 Appropriate instructional time in dance must be allocated so that students, through cumulative learning experience, are able to achieve the Learning Outcomes of the *Public School Programs*.

8.2 DRAMA

- 8.2.1 All students, Primary to 6, will receive classroom instruction in drama education as part of their regular program and will have opportunities to experience drama as a learning strategy across the curriculum.
- 8.2.2 All students, grades 7 to 9, will receive classroom instruction in drama education as part of their regular program and will have opportunities to experience drama as a learning strategy across the curriculum.
- 8.2.3 Appropriate instructional time in drama at the elementary and junior high levels must be allocated so that students, through cumulative learning experiences, are able to achieve the learning outcomes.
- 8.2.4 All students, grades 10 to 12, will have access to drama as a course option at each grade level and will have opportunities to experience drama as a learning strategy across the curriculum. While only one Fine Arts course is mandated by the *Public School Programs* students who choose to study drama should have opportunities to extend their learning through additional courses.
- 8.2.5 A minimum of 110 hours of instructional time is required to receive a credit in each drama course at the senior high level.

8.3 MUSIC

- 8.3.1 All students in grades Primary to 6 will receive a classroom music education program taught by qualified teachers with appropriate training in music theory and instruction.
- There will be formal time allocation provided in teachers schedule to allow for the delivery of a choral program.
- 8.3.2 All students grades 3 to 12 will have access to choral and instrumental music instruction taught by qualified teachers with appropriate training in music theory and instruction.

8.3.2.1 String programs will be offered to students grades 3 to 12;

8.3.2.2 Band programs will be offered to students grades 6 to 12;

8.3.2.3 Choral programs will be offered to students grades 4 to 12.

8.3.3 Instructional time in music at the elementary and junior high levels must be allocated so that students, through cumulative learning experiences, are able to achieve the Learning Outcomes of the *Public School Programs*.

8.3.4 All students in grades 10 to 12 will have access to music instruction taught by qualified teachers with appropriate training in music theory and instruction.

8.3.5 A minimum of 110 hours of instructional time is required to receive a credit in each music course at the senior high level.

8.4 VISUAL ARTS EDUCATION

8.4.1 All students primary to 6 will receive classroom instruction in visual arts education taught by teachers specifically educated in visual arts theory and instruction.

8.4.2 All students grades 7 to 9 will receive visual arts education as part of their regular program and is taught by a visual arts teacher.

8.4.3 Appropriate instructional time in music at the elementary and junior high levels must be allocated so that students, through cumulative learning experiences, are able to achieve the Learning Outcomes of the *Public School Programs*.

8.4.4 All students grades 10 to 12 will have access to visual arts as a course option at each grade level taught by visual arts teacher.

8.4.5 A minimum of 110 hours of instructional time is required to receive a credit in all senior high visual arts courses.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- 9.1 The Fine Arts Policy and Procedures be adopted by the Halifax Regional School Board, thus ensuring a direction is set for implementation of a program of excellence in the Fine Arts which make it possible for all students to reach their learning potential.
- 9.2 The report be communicated to all schools and school communities in the Halifax Regional School Board.
- 9.3 The Halifax Regional School Board provide a brochure which outlines the Fine Arts policy of the Halifax Regional School Board.
- 9.4 The Halifax Regional School Board declare the month of April as the annual Fine Arts celebration month.