



March 20, 2018

Caitlin Dooley, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction
Georgia Department of Education
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Dr. Dooley:

Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) appreciates the opportunity to be a part of the standards review process for the fine arts. As part of our commitment to supporting access to quality arts learning opportunities for every K-12 public school student in our state, GCA has committed staff time to the rigorous process, led by the Department of Education, of reviewing and revising the Music, Dance, and Media Arts standards for Georgia schools.

As we see it, arts education is a crucial part of educating the whole child, preparing students to make meaningful contributions to the 21st-century workforce through the enhancement of skills in creativity, innovation, critical thinking, and cooperation, and providing a pathway to careers in the creative industries in Georgia, which have an annual economic impact of \$62.5 billion.

The updated standards incorporate much needed revisions to account for changes in technology and methodology. The revised standards also allow for increased flexibility, while providing general guidance and a broad framework for local education officials to build a more detailed, rigorous, and meaningful curriculum for their students.

From our intimate knowledge of the review process through participation on the Advisory Committee and the Academic Review Committee, and the resulting improvements to the aforementioned standards, GCA wholeheartedly supports the proposed Georgia Standards of Excellence, which are now before the State Board of Education for consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Paty".

Karen Paty
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Bell".

Allen Bell
Arts Education Manager