

**Poway Unified School District
Visual and Performing Arts Strategic Plan
Recommendations 2019-2024
Executive Summary**

Overview

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) core academic subjects are defined as:

- Mathematics;
- Biological sciences, chemistry, geosciences, and physics;
- Social science (history, government, economics, geography);
- Foreign languages (specific);
- Drama/theatre, visual arts (including dance), and music; and
- English/language arts and reading.

ESSA clearly enumerates the arts as part of a well-rounded education. In order to provide quality arts education, all aspects of arts education must be considered. According to the California Department of Education Visual and Performing Arts Framework, when planning Arts Educational Programs, an essential component is “allocating personnel and instructional resources, including appropriate materials, equipment, and facilities.”

The Conceptual Framework for the National Core Arts Standards defines Artistic Literacy, *Artistic literacy is the knowledge and understanding required to participate authentically in the arts. Fluency in the language(s) of the arts is the ability to create, perform/produce/present, respond, and connect through symbolic and metaphoric forms that are unique to the arts. It is embodied in specific philosophical foundations and lifelong goals that enable an artistically literate person to transfer arts knowledge, skills, and capacities to other subjects, settings, and contexts.*

“Arts education not only enhances students' understanding of the world around them, but it also broadens their perspective on traditional academics. The arts give us the creativity to express ourselves, while challenging our intellect. The arts integrate life and learning for all students and are integral in the development of the whole person” (Dr. Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State, November 2001).

The PUSD Strategic Arts Education Planning Committee and Process

On March 20, 2018 the Strategic Arts Education Planning Committee met for the first time with the task of writing a strategic Visual and Performing Arts Education Plan for Poway Unified School District and to share the recommended plan with the Superintendent’s Cabinet and School Board. The committee’s goals were to create a visionary plan for Poway Unified that would provide a high quality, comprehensive, sequential, standards-based arts education for all students at all schools. This committee represented a cross section of the district including administrators, visual and performing arts teachers, general classroom teachers, community members, parents, and students.

To begin this work, the committee reviewed current research to gain understanding and clarity around artistic literacy development and components of quality arts education. Resources used to help define these focus areas were the *National Core Arts Standards, 2014*; *The Qualities of Quality: Understanding Excellence in Arts Education*, Project Zero, Harvard University, 2009; and

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Ed Codes 51210, 51220 and 8950. From this review of research the committee created a vision statement, mission statement, and a District Plan to enrich PUSD students' lives with the arts. The Plan is divided into five *'Focus Areas'* that address the specific needs of a comprehensive arts program. The goal is to fully implement the plan within 3- 5 years, acknowledging that the implementation timeline will need to correspond with overall district financial obligations.

In addition to the four sessions of the Strategic Arts Education Planning Committee, two focus groups convened on May 24, 2018 to provide feedback and input on the *Focus Areas* created by the Planning Committee. These focus groups were open to all stakeholders in Poway Unified School District, school board members, students, parents, teachers, community members, and community organizations.

Vision Statement

Growing confident and creative students through exploration and expression in the Arts.

Mission Statement

Poway Unified School District is dedicated to promoting Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) as part of a well-rounded education by providing all students with a high-quality, relevant, equitable, and sequential standards-based Arts education in the five VAPA disciplines: Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

The Focus Areas are:

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
2. Leadership and Professional Learning
3. Human and Physical Resources
4. Culture and Community
5. Equity and Access

Each *Focus Area* recommends specific action steps to take, implementation steps for each action, budget implications, and recommended timelines for implementation. The timeline for the plan has been divided into Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5 of implementation.

Throughout this document and plan, **VAPA** refers to Visual and Performing Arts, which includes, Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre (Drama), and Visual Arts (Fine Arts). The new National Core Arts Standards (2014) and the new California Arts Standards (2019) now recognize Media Arts as a fifth arts discipline adding this fifth discipline to the traditional four disciplines, Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts.

X-Ploration is a district-wide program for all the elementary schools. Seventeen times a year (on rotation), a team of Poway teachers visits each K-5 classroom in the district to teach grade-level lessons in P.E., Visual and Performing Arts, STEM, and Coding while classroom teachers have opportunity to collaborate.

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Summary of the Five Focus Areas and Goals

FOCUS AREA 1: CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT

Focus Statement

PUSD will support a TK-12 standards-based curriculum and assessment in all five Arts disciplines: Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

Goal 1: Implement a sequential standards-based articulated curriculum.

Goal 2: Provide professional learning opportunities that will develop and deepen TK-5 teacher understanding of Arts standards.

Goal 3: Ensure all Arts Educators are knowledgeable in the new California Arts Standards.

Goal 4: Develop and implement a TK-12 scope and sequence.

Goal 5: Offer all 5 Arts disciplines at all schools as part of the curriculum.

FOCUS AREA 2: LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Focus Statement

PUSD will provide systematic professional learning opportunities and cultivate leadership in the arts.

Goal 1: Define and design meaningful TK-12 professional learning opportunities for each of the five arts disciplines.

Goal 2: Cultivate leadership within our system to support and strengthen VAPA learning opportunities for all students.

FOCUS AREA 3: HUMAN AND PHYSICAL RESOURCES

Focus Statement

PUSD will employ highly qualified arts educators, and provide access to spaces, equipment, supplies, and materials that are industry-standard to ensure a quality and comprehensive arts education for all PUSD students.

Goal 1: PUSD will allocate funds and take steps to employ highly qualified arts educators with discipline specific credentials.

Goal 2: PUSD will ensure VAPA facilities, equipment, materials, and curriculum are accessible and equitable to all students across the district.

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FOCUS AREA 4: CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Focus Statement

Create a culture where Visual and Performing Arts are valued and prioritized. Create a culture where all students are inspired to create, appreciate, and experience the Arts.

Goal 1: Promote and celebrate Arts programs in PUSD with our students, community, and stakeholders.

Goal 2: Establish and cultivate relationships with arts organizations, artists, community partners, and teaching artists which reflect our diverse student population in order to support district Arts programming.

Goal 3: Strengthen partnerships with district families to support our Arts programming.

FOCUS AREA 5: EQUITY AND ACCESS

Focus Statement

All PUSD students have consistent exposure to and opportunities for engagement in a standards-based arts education across the five disciplines (Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Art) throughout their PUSD experience.

Goal 1: Students will explore all five VAPA disciplines on an annual basis at the elementary level.

Goal 2: Students will begin focusing on VAPA disciplines that they are interested in, while still receiving experiences with the 5 Arts disciplines at the 6-8 level.

Goal 3: Students will move towards more focused VAPA concentrations as they progress through 9-12 while still receiving opportunities for experiences in the 5 Arts disciplines.

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Strategic Arts Education Planning Committee

Denise Bickel	Parent
Kim Bourda	Visual Art, X-ploration Teacher
Melanie Brown	Mesa Verde Middle School, Assistant Principal
Valerie Chen	Student
Pauline Crooks	San Diego County Office of Education, VAPA Coordinator
Mike Gizzo	Poway Unified School District Office, Career Education Specialist
Michelle Jacoby	Rancho Bernardo High School, Dance Teacher
Heather LaForge	Parent
Janet Lettang	Parent
Joanne Lichtenberg	Elementary Music Teacher
Jesse Luna	Poway Unified School District Office, CTAE Counselor
Libby Keller	Rolling Hills Elementary, Principal
Jennifer Kitelinger	Del Norte High School, Instrumental Music Teacher
Aaron Jaffey	Poway High School, Media Arts/Visual Arts Teacher
Doug Johnson	Poway Unified School District Office, Executive Director
Marti Martinez	Mt. Carmel High School, Vocal Music Teacher
Tara Nijhowne	Elementary Music Teacher
Mark Nowak	Oak Valley Middle School, Instrumental Music Teacher
Beth Perisic	Poway Unified School District Office, LSS Director
Patti Puckett	Meadowbrook Middle School, Instrumental Music Teacher
Kimberlie Rens	Poway Unified School District Office, Executive Director
Barbara Scholl	Poway Unified School District Office, ESS Director
Matthew Vancelette	Design 39 Campus, Music Teacher
Stacey Walker	Mt. Carmel High School, Theatre Teacher
Heidi Whitehouse	Elementary General Classroom Teacher
Colin Young	Mt. Carmel High School, Assistant Principal

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Focus Group Contributors

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Facilitated by The California Arts Project, Courtney Sawada, Regional Director (SouthCAP)

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