

INTRODUCTION

Opportunity-to-Learn Standards

Please read!

Name of School: _____

Person Completing: _____

These worksheets are designed to assess the quality of the conditions in place in arts education at a local school. These Opportunity-to-Learn standards were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations and address the conditions needed for all students at every level—pre-kindergarten through grade 12—to “have access to a balanced comprehensive and sequential program of instruction in the arts, taught by qualified teachers.” The content of an arts education has been clearly defined by S.C. 2010 Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts and The National Standards for Arts Education (1994). While these documents define content, the Opportunity-to-Learn Standards for Arts Education (1995) proposes standards for (1) curriculum and scheduling, (2) staffing, (3) materials and equipment, and (4) facilities. According to the introductory material:

These opportunity to learn standards represent the best collective thinking of experienced arts educators who are qualified by their background and training to offer recommendations concerning the conditions necessary for effective learning. They are not standards coming “from the top down.” Rather, they are standards developed by practicing teachers familiar with the day-to-day realities of the classroom and by arts administrators’ familiar with the limitations on resources under which every school operates.

The document itself is divided into four sections: dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. Because each art covers a distinct area of human knowledge and creativity, these sections function as semi-independent units. The opportunity-to-learn standards are recommended by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations, “either for adoption or as a basis for adaptation, to every state or school district developing its own opportunity-to-learn standards.” These standards are a “complementary and necessary companion to content and achievement standards.”

In 1997, the Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Project reformatted the opportunity-to-learn standards into a series of work sheets for use by ABC Sites. In 2000, the worksheets were incorporated into the ABC’s process for developing strategic arts education plans and used at the 2000 – 2009 Arts Education Leadership Institute (AELI). These work sheets directly reflect the wording of the original publication (with some minor editing) and include spaces to check whether the standard is lacking, is met, or is exceeded in a given school or school system.

Persons using these work sheets are strongly encouraged to purchase a copy of the source document to have the complete wording of each standard. Opportunity-to-Learn Standards for Arts Education (1995) ISBN -13 978-0-937652-90-9, ISBN, 0-937652-90-3.

Complete the attached worksheets marking each “Exemplar” as Lacking, Meets or Exceeds. Please respond to each exemplar and add comments when a clarification is needed.