

May 31, 2017

The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Support: Assembly Staff Recommendations

Location: Budget Conference Committee

Re: Delay of Deadlines on Visual and Performing Arts Standards – Item 6100, CDE State Operations;

Dear Senator Mitchell and Committee Members:

On behalf of the California Alliance for Arts Education I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed delay of the updating of arts education standards, as proposed in the Governor's budget. We support the Assembly staff recommendations on Item 6100 – CDE State Operations, Statewide Academic Content Standards and Resources, regarding approval of the Governor's proposed federal fund increases and rejection of the Governor's proposed trailer bill language to delay the deadlines for Visual and Performing Arts Standards.

We welcomed the news of the Governor's signature on AB 2862 (O'Donnell), legislation that directed the Department of Education to update arts education standards. This update was long overdue, impacting the quality of arts education that our students receive.

The proposed delay would stall positive momentum around arts education, preventing California from aligning its standards with the new national core arts standards. In addition it would delay the implementation of the newly created Dance and Theatre credentials (SB 916) also signed into law by the Governor last year.

We consider the cost of the updating of standards to be minimal and that we should move towards fulfilling that promise to the people of California.

The California Alliance for Arts Education is in its fifth decade of working to build a brighter future for our state by making the arts a core part of every child's quality education. A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes California's abundance of arts and culture experts to advocate for quality visual and performing arts instruction for all students. By collaborating effectively with the state's leading education and parent engagement agencies and providing an anchor for policy expertise at the state and local levels, the Alliance is the leader in promoting the arts in schools and enriching the lives of children, families and communities.

Please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Joe Landon
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor
Budget Conference Committee [Senators Holly Mitchell (Chair), Ricardo Lara, Richard Roth, Jim Nielsen, and John Moorlach; Assemblymembers Phil Ting (Co-Chair), Phillip Chen, Kevin McCarty, Jay Obernolte, Shirley Weber, and Joaquin Arambula]
Ms. Katie Hardeman, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2,
Education Finance
Ms. Jennifer Lam, Fiscal Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Mr. Rick Pratt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Mr. Bob Becker, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Ms. Elisa Wynne, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1,
Education
Ms. Cheryl Black, Fiscal Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Ms. Lynn Lorber, Chief Consultant, Senate Education Committee
Mr. Roger Mackensen, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Mr. Jeff Bell, Program Budget Manager for Education, Department of Finance
Ms. Jennifer Kuhn, Deputy for Education, Legislative Analyst's Office
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
The Honorable Kevin de Leon, President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Patricia Bates, Minority Leader, California State Senate
The Honorable Chad Mayes, Minority Leader, California State Assembly
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate