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## **Vermont Agency of Education Adopts National Core Arts Standards**

**BARRE** – – The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) and the Vermont Arts Council are pleased to announce that the Vermont State Board of Education has approved a proposal to adopt the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS).

The NCAS are learning standards that support educators in providing a high quality arts education for students in Pre-K through high school in the disciplines of dance, media arts, music, theatre and visual arts.

“The arts are central to our vision of a well-rounded, creative Vermont. The National Core Arts Standards represent an opportunity to better support high-quality learning experiences in the arts for all of our students,” said Agency of Education Secretary Rebecca Holcombe. “They provide a robust resource for educators, while still being flexible enough to allow for local customization and selection on the part of schools and teachers. Partnering around national standards will enable our teachers to access and benefit from innovative work and ideas from educators in other states, even as they share our local work with a national audience. ”

Introduced in 2014 as a set of voluntary national guidelines by 10 national arts and education organizations, NCAS have already been adopted by five states, with an additional 17 states considering implementation in the 2016/2017 school year.

“The strong partnership between the Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Agency of Education, and deep engagement among educators, art teachers, and administrators, formed the foundation for the successful approval of NCAS adoption, said Alex Aldrich, director of the Vermont Arts Council. “More than two thirds of arts educators surveyed in Vermont are already using the NCAS in their classrooms, so we are well on our way to full implementation throughout the state.”

Additional Resources:

[An Overview of NCAS](#)

[NCAS website](#)

[Overview of NCAS as they relate to current Vermont standards](#)

The Vermont Arts Council envisions a state where everyone has access to the arts and creativity in their life, education, and community. Through its programs and services, the Council strives to increase public awareness of the positive role artists and arts organizations play in communities and to maximize opportunities for everyone to experience the arts. Since 1965, the Council has

been the state's primary provider of funding, advocacy, and information for the arts in Vermont.  
[www.vermontartscouncil.org](http://www.vermontartscouncil.org).

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