

# Fact Sheet



## K–12 Arts Education Curriculum Framework: June 2009 Draft

Arts Education provides opportunities for students to learn in the arts, through the arts, and about the arts. This includes instruction in specific arts disciplines and infusion of the arts across the curriculum.

Alberta Education is reviewing Fine Arts Programs to enhance student learning opportunities in the arts. Fine Arts curriculum has not changed in more than 20 years. This is part of the regular review process to ensure programs are current and relevant for students.

Research and focused discussions with diverse stakeholders have guided the development of a draft *K–12 Arts Education Curriculum Framework*. The draft framework highlights the importance of arts education in the 21st Century. It proposes a vision of students realizing their full, unique potential as they learn in the arts, through the arts and about the arts. Based on a student-centered learning approach, the new framework proposes four general learning outcomes that reflect the common links that exist across arts disciplines (music, art, drama and dance). This means retaining the traditions and rigour of each discipline, while also embracing opportunities in the arts across subject areas. The draft framework presents a possible organizational structure that would support students benefiting from a variety of arts experiences in elementary schools, and would provide increased choice and flexibility in secondary schools.

*“The arts engage the whole child ... for many students, the arts are the reason they come to school.” (CASS focus group participant 2008)*

This is the initial stage of our regular curriculum development process, and, as such, is the first time the proposed draft framework has been available for stakeholder response and feedback. The draft framework is available online for review and discussion in English and French. In response to stakeholder requests, the deadline for online discussion has been extended to **January 31, 2010** in an effort to hear from all interested Albertans. All suggestions and comments will be carefully considered during future revisions to the proposed framework and the subsequent development of programs of study.

### Where can I find out more?

The draft framework, online discussion questions and regular updates on Arts Education can be found online in English at [www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/finearts/program-updates.aspx](http://www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/finearts/program-updates.aspx) and in French at [www.education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/core/beaux-arts/projet/revision.aspx](http://www.education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/core/beaux-arts/projet/revision.aspx).

For more information, please contact Susan McLeod, Arts Education Curriculum Manager, Curriculum Sector at 780-422-1988 (toll-free by first dialing 310-000) or by email at [susan.mcleod@gov.ab.ca](mailto:susan.mcleod@gov.ab.ca). You can also contact Katherine Deren, Arts Education Curriculum Manager, French and International Education Services Sector, at 780-422-1988 (toll-free by first dialing 310-000) or by email at [katherine.deren@gov.ab.ca](mailto:katherine.deren@gov.ab.ca).