

3. QUALIFIED ELEMENTARY ART TEACHERS POSITION STATEMENT

WAEA Position Statement on Elementary Visual Art Instruction [Presented March 2017, Adopted November 2018] The Arts, defined as dance, music, theatre, media and visual arts, are core and basic education, under both Washington State and federal law and policy. Research has shown that students receiving four or more years of formal instruction in arts courses outperform their “arts-poor” peers in nearly every measure, from reading readiness to SAT scores to even such things as likelihood of participation in science fairs or their student government. Further, the benefits of art education have been shown to stay with individuals through their college years and into their adult lives. Given this information, the WAEA asserts that: Arts instruction should be offered at every grade level, K-12 Arts coursework should be awarded equitable time for instruction, when compared with the other core and basic subjects, during the regular school day. This instruction should be given by individuals who either possess or are actively pursuing a qualifying degree, certification, or endorsement in visual arts. Examples of qualifying degrees include a BFA or MFA, or a BA, BSc or BEd in Fine Arts and/or Art Education. The vast majority of teacher training degree programs spend little, if any time on teaching art. The teachers who graduate from these programs are not equipped to teach art, at any level. **The WAEA recognizes that situations sometimes arise which result in non-arts endorsed teachers taking over as instructors of art courses. It is the WAEA’s position that, if, at the end of one school year, the building/district and teacher intend for the non-arts endorsed staff to remain in the role of Art Instructor, that they immediately begin working together on getting that instructor properly endorsed to teach art.

WAEA Position Statements