

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

SCR 24

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5 By: Senators J. Jeffress, G. Jeffress, Baker, Brown, Gullett, Bryles, Faris

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8 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 TO REQUEST THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF EDUCATION TO  
10 DIRECT THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
11 OFFER MUSIC AND VISUAL ART IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN  
12 THROUGH EIGHT.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO REQUEST THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF  
16 EDUCATION TO DIRECT THE ARKANSAS  
17 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OFFER MUSIC  
18 AND VISUAL ART IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN  
19 THROUGH EIGHT.

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22 WHEREAS, Act 445 of 1983, establishing the Standards for Accreditation  
23 for Arkansas Public Schools, required all schools that seek accreditation by  
24 the state to offer music and art in grades kindergarten through eighth; and  
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26 WHEREAS, the year 2000 revision for Standards for Accreditation for  
27 Arkansas Public Schools continued this same requirement; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the Standards for Accreditation require these subjects to be  
30 taught by course content guides or frameworks; and  
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32 WHEREAS, Act 1506 of 2001, requires music and art to be taught  
33 according to the frameworks by knowledgeable individuals in those areas,  
34 until June 1, 2005, when certified teachers must be used; and  
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36 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Education has failed to enforce the



1 will of the State Board of Education as it relates to the requirements for  
2 music and visual art, contributing to the inequity of curricular offerings  
3 available to students; and

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5 WHEREAS, the argument that Act 1506 of 2001 in an unfunded mandate does  
6 not stand scrutiny considering the fact that legislative funding for public  
7 schools has always been accompanied with the understanding that the funds  
8 allocated to school districts should be used to fulfill the minimum  
9 requirements of state education laws and regulations; and

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11 WHEREAS, school districts without elementary music and art across the  
12 state have knowingly or unknowingly provided false or misleading information  
13 to the Arkansas Department of Education concerning the district’s compliance  
14 with the Standards for Accreditation as it pertains to elementary music and  
15 art since the inception of the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public  
16 Schools; and

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18 WHEREAS, school districts not offering elementary music and art, taught  
19 by certified specialists in the separate areas, using an aligned curriculum  
20 based on the state frameworks in the arts since 1984, have contributed to the  
21 decline of the cultural literacy of the state, a decline in the number of  
22 students receiving scholarships in the arts, a decline in the number of  
23 students enrolled in the arts in the upper grade levels; and

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25 WHEREAS, the arts are scheduled to be included on the 2007 National  
26 Assessment of Education Progress; and

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28 WHEREAS, the arts, having a beauty and power unique in our culture,  
29 also have a unique ability to communicate the ideas and emotions of the human  
30 spirit, connecting us to our history, our traditions, and our heritage; and

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32 WHEREAS, a growing body of research indicates that education in the  
33 arts provides significant cognitive benefits and bolsters academic  
34 achievement, beginning at an early age and continuing through school,

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36 NOW THEREFORE,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
2 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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4 That the Arkansas State Board of Education is requested to direct the  
5 Arkansas Department of Education to immediately include a separate category  
6 on the Accreditation Compliance Checklist which asks specifically:

7 (1) If the district has developed curriculum guides based on the state  
8 frameworks in the arts;

9 (2) If the arts curriculum has been aligned from grades kindergarten  
10 through twelfth;

11 (3) If supporting documents are included with the checklist;

12 (4) If students are receiving the mandated amount of time in each  
13 subject area;

14 (5) If the subjects are taught by certified specialists in the arts  
15 using the aligned curriculum;

16 (6) If the subjects are taught by other than non certified individuals  
17 knowledgeable in the arts using the aligned curriculum until June 1, 2005;  
18 and and

19 (7) If the subjects are funded according to state law.  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Education is requested  
22 to direct the Arkansas Department of Education to ensure that all school  
23 districts immediately comply with all requirements of the Arkansas Standards  
24 for Accreditation as revised in 2000 and Act 1506 of 2001, in order to  
25 maintain accreditation, by offering music and visual art in the school  
26 district's curriculum in grades kindergarten through eighth.  
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