

June 6, 2023

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Subject: Arts Education Issues Updates

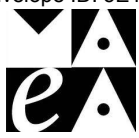
To Superintendent Choudhury:

On March 1, 2023, AEMS submitted [a letter](#) to you, in collaboration with Maryland's arts education professional associations, requesting information and action on a number of key areas affecting arts education in Maryland. While we were unable to meet with you personally to discuss these matters, we did receive an audience with several Deputy Superintendents to discuss the issues enumerated in our letter. This discussion has led to significant updates and action on several fronts and we are grateful for MSDE's collaboration on these matters.

These matters include:

- **Issue:** The lack of convenings of Fine Arts Supervisors or the Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel. **Status:** As of this date, the Fine Arts Supervisors have begun meeting again, and a new Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel has been empaneled and completed its first meeting. **-RESOLVED**
- **Issue:** The position of Director of Comprehensive Arts Education has been vacant since December, 2021. **Status:** As of this date, candidate Elizabeth Devereux has been approved by the State Board of Education as the new Director, though no appointment date is yet available. **-RESOLVED (soon)**
- **Issue:** P-6 teacher certification in Theatre does not exist in Maryland. **Status:** As of this date, revisions in COMAR governing educator certification are being promulgated by MSDE. Upon the final approval of those revisions, MSDE Fine Arts will be convening a working group to create this certification in collaboration with Maryland Theatre Education Association. Prior to the COMAR revisions, no work had yet been done on creating this certification. By offering the full span of a PK-12 theatre certification, MSDE can facilitate more theatre teachers' placement in elementary and middle schools, bringing Maryland schools into closer alignment with COMAR's mandate for access to instructional programs in all 5 arts disciplines through a student's PK-12 education. **-IN PROGRESS**

We are grateful for the hard work of MSDE in supporting Maryland's public school educators and delivering quality education to the more than 850,000 students in Maryland public schools. The issues enumerated above have created serious



Arts Education in Maryland Schools



challenges in the sector of arts education over the past several years. We hope that, with these issues resolved or on the way to resolution, Maryland's public schools will be able to deliver more robust and meaningful arts education experiences than ever. To that end, we look forward to our continuing collaboration.

Sincerely,

Rachel McGrain
Executive Director, AEMS

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President, Maryland Art Education Association

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Sandra Atkinson
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Julian Lazarus
President, Maryland Theatre Education Association