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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.

DATE: May 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2024-56

On February 14, 2024, the Florida Legislature unanimously passed House Bill 523, Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program, to encourage fine arts students to develop expertise in the performing or visual arts. The bill was signed into law on April 2, 2024, and will go into effect on July 1, 2024.

The Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program was established within the Department of Education to recognize high school graduates who have met exemplary benchmarks in fine arts coursework. The purpose of the Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program is to encourage students to develop an exemplary level of proficiency in the performing or visual arts.

Pursuant to [Section 1003.4321, Florida Statutes](#), beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the Florida Seal of Fine Arts shall be awarded to a high school student who has earned a standard high school diploma; successfully completed at least three year-long courses in dance, music, theatre, or the visual arts with a grade of “A” or higher in each course or earned three sequential course credits in such courses with a grade of “A” or higher in each course; and meets a minimum of two of the following requirements:

1. Successfully completes a fine arts International Baccalaureate, advanced placement, dual enrollment or honors course in the subjects listed in the paragraph above with a grade of “B” or higher.
2. Participates in a district or statewide organization’s juried event as a selected student participant for 2 or more years.
3. Records at least 25 volunteer hours of arts-related community service in his or her community and presents a comprehensive presentation on his or her experiences.
4. Meets the requirements of a portfolio-based program identifying the student as an exemplary practitioner of the fine arts.
5. Receives district, state or national recognition for the creation and submission of an original work of art. The term “work of art” means a musical or theatrical composition, visual artwork, or choreographed routine or performance.

DR. PAUL O. BURNS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The State Board of Education may establish additional criteria for the award of the Florida Seal of Fine Arts. The Department will begin the rule development process.

The Commissioner of Education shall prepare for and provide to each school district an appropriate seal to be affixed to a student's diploma indicating that the student has been awarded the Florida Seal of Fine Arts and provide appropriate benchmarks in rubric form that are necessary for a school district to successfully implement the program.

Each school district shall maintain appropriate records to identify a student who has met the requirements to receive a Florida Seal of Fine Arts, provide the Commissioner of Education with the number of students who have met the requirements to receive the Florida Seal of Fine Arts, affix the appropriate insignia to the student's diploma, and indicate on the student's transcript that he or she has earned a Florida Seal of Fine Arts.

A school district or the Department may not charge a fee for the Florida Seal of Fine Arts.

For more information, please contact Amanda El Shemi in the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support at Amanda.ElShemi@fldoe.org.

PB/ae

cc: School District Principals
School District Fine Arts Supervisors