New Wisconsin Music Education Standards

Wisconsin’s Vision

Wisconsin defines Music Education as “an academic discipline that explores music through developmental experiences involving singing, playing instruments, listening, movement, creative expression, and music reading.

Wisconsin’s Vision for Music Education is to introduce the analytical elements and aesthetic expressive qualities of music to all students.

These standards will:
1. Introduce the fundamental concepts and aesthetic aspects of music to all students, beginning in the elementary school levels;
2. Present music at the secondary level that expands exploration through more performance opportunities and engagement of the art form;
3. Offer additional secondary-level music experiences that will allow interested students to study music in depth and prepare them for entry into a career or college;
4. Offer opportunities for students to demonstrate their musical knowledge and skills through the artistic processes of: Create, Perform, Respond, and Connect; and
5. Increase the knowledge of music for all students through investigating various aspects of music across time and cultures.

Focus

The overall priority for the Music Standards is to provide what students should know and be able to do. These standards:
- Utilize the artistic processes of - Create, Perform, Respond, and Connect;
- Weave through all of the grade bands in two strands: General Music and Performance Music;
- Provide a conceptual base with attention to actionable indicators;
- Serve as a thoughtful and concise frame, allowing school communities to identify their own specific strategies or knowledge sets through their own music curriculum plan.
- Guide and prepare students to be college and career ready.

Forward

The Wisconsin Standards for Music is shaped by multiple persons including music teachers, administrators, parents, business professionals, music industry and service organizations, and leaders from across the state. The standards is informed by the National Core Arts Standards in Music (2014) and the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in Music (1997), as well as by other states. Supplemental resources will continue to be developed to help build the musical skills and knowledge of our learners in Wisconsin.