Standards: SMTE Policy ASPA E-Kit
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WHAT ARE STANDARDS?

- Describe what students should know and be able to do
- Exist at various levels: local, state, national (but usually not in the US)
- Two types:
  - Content standards: "what" students will know/be able to do
  - Performance standards: "how" (the expected level of achievement)
- Standards should play a role in the creation of curriculum

TENSIONS AND DISAGREEMENTS ABOUND

- Does everyone have equal opportunity to learn?
- Minimum levels vs. aspirational goals
- Who has a say in creating standards?

THE STANDARDS PERIOD (1980s – 1990s)

- Presidents George HW Bush and Clinton convened governors and legislators to attempt to define core subjects and to create standards and national assessments.
- This effort, eventually known as Goals 2000, led to the creation of the first national arts standards, with music education drafting a set of 9 content standards and accompanying performance standards in 1994.
- But ultimately, concerns over federal overreach prompted this effort to dissolve with only a few content areas finishing standards, and very little work done on national assessment.

MORE RECENT STANDARDS ON THE SCENE

- The Common Core State Standards (published 2010)
  - What: "internationally benchmarked" standards in math and ELA for grades K-12
  - Who: adopted by 41 states and the District of Columbia
- The Next Generation Science Standards (published 2011)
  - What: "internationally benchmarked," developed by states with guidance from the National Research Council
  - Who: adopted by 19 states
- National Core Arts Standards (2014)
  - What: update to the 1994 standards, structure and tone mirroring the CCSS; across music, dance, visual art, theatre, and media arts
  - Who: voluntary national standards, states choose to adopt or not

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Standards and their history:
  - "A Policy History of Standards-Based Education in America" by Boyce Brown (book)
  - "Failing Grades: The Federal Politics of Education Standards" by Kevin Kosar (book)
- Information on the National Music Standards
  - See the National Association for Music Education's page: https://nafme.org/overview-of-2014-music-standards/
  - See the standards themselves across the arts: https://nationalartsstandards.org