

HB 523 and SB 694 Fine Arts Seal Bill - Q & A

This seal would be a recognition of the high quality of their efforts and will NOT create an additional heavy load on schools. Most of the requirements of the bill are already in current practice for the students who are going above what is required for graduation.

In addition to completing at least 3 yearlong courses in Dance, Music, Theater or Visual Arts with a grade of A or higher, the current bill has language that students must meet a minimum of 2 additional requirements (HB 523 pg. 2 starting on line 36). Line 44 states the student must record at least 25 volunteer hours of art-related community service. Who determines what constitutes “art-related” community service and who determines what a comprehensive presentation would consist of?

- Art-related community service: Guidelines should be determined by the school district in consultation with state professional organizations in collaboration with FLDOE. Common events include but are not limited to: School and community performances, volunteering in schools or community arts organizations to assist with their art and performing arts programs.
- Comprehensive Presentation: A clear definition will be determined by the aforementioned collaboration. Presentations may include but are not limited to: Written self-reflections, a verbal presentation to a group of peers and teachers, or a visual presentation. All would focus on why they chose to volunteer and the impact or expected impact of their volunteer efforts.

On line 47, who determines or what criteria are used address the requirement of “meets the portfolio-based program and is an exemplary practitioner of the arts?”

- This statement seeks to emphasize the rigor of the requirements with special emphasis on the use of portfolios. The use of portfolios to determine the results of rigorous instruction are already in place and include: Scoring a 3 or above on AP portfolio submissions in Visual Arts, passing portfolios required in ACE (Cambridge programs) and International Baccalaureate programs. All of these have vetted rubrics.

In addition, on line 41, of the bill it states that the student must participate in a “juried” event. What currently comprises a “juried” event and who controls that event?

- A juried event is any event that uses highly qualified experts in the field (in many cases multiple experts) who have been trained on specific rubrics to judge the quality of student work.
- Visual Arts-Many of our school districts use a jury system to determine the quality of artwork submitted by schools for public display. (For example, Polk has 9 juried exhibitions a year, Pinellas has 8 high school juried exhibits.) Additionally, the Florida Arts Education Association has an annual K-12 statewide juried digital art exhibition that could be used as a qualifying event.
- Music-The Florida School Music Association sanctions annual district and state Music Performance Assessments for solos, small and large performing ensembles. These are both at the district and state levels.
- Theatre -The Florida Thespian Association has similar adjudicated events at the district and state levels.

- Dance-The Florida Dance Education Organization has adjudicated events at the state level for dancers.
- All of these events are currently in practice. Because these organizations offer these events state-wide, this allows for access to high quality juried events to every school district.