

Transcript – Introduction to the Fine Arts TEKS - Interviews

Linda Fleetwood, Art Supervisor, North East ISD: Curriculum and Assessment

What does assessment look like for fine arts in grades K through 12?

Assessment Grades K through 12 can be done by the students providing some sort of evidence that they've learned what they need to learn. They could provide a sample of an art project they were doing, or a video of a dance. Portfolio assessment is an authentic type of assessment, a gathering of resources or a gathering of evidence of learning. Putting together evidence of learning into digital portfolios rather than physical portfolios is especially effective.

What are some assessment tools teachers can use in each of the fine arts disciplines?

There are a lot of platforms out there right now, like Digication and Artsonia. A lot of school districts are even using Google, if they have enough memory in Google, to post things for the students so the students can learn and post things themselves. Teachers can then go back and look at the students' profiles.

When students' finish, they will have a large body of work that could consist of videos, images of art, etc... All of it creating a portfolio that can be easily submitted to a college. It's a much better way of presenting what they've learned than having them take a pencil/paper test.

How does the structure of the new TEKS encourage creative options in assessing student performance?

The nice thing about the new TEKS is that there can be true differentiation for all students. It's not so much that you're measuring a technique or a process; but how the student communicated and expressed themselves. They're communicating how they interpreted what the teacher wanted them to do. When you give students a broader idea of what they're trying to do, whether it's music, theatre, dance or art, then it's not whether that child has talent so much as what they've communicated, or what they've expressed. It really opens up to allow all children to achieve in the arts. Your assessments should be focused on how well the child communicated as well as how well they provided evidence that they understood the problem.

What is the difference between curriculum and the TEKS?

The TEKS are the legal guidelines for what type of curriculum to build. Curriculum is actually what you've built to get across a certain idea or to have a student learn a certain thing, and to scaffold up that measuring of learning. The nice thing about the TEKS in the fine arts area is that there's enough space to build, but it also provides specific things that students need to accomplish. Curriculum has to be the part that you build. Fine arts, especially in these new revised TEKS, is all about that creative process. We as teachers need to be part of that creative process. We have to be creative. We have to take the guidelines and design what will work for our students. We must know our students, know how to design for them and then make lessons to help them be successful. The curriculum is what you design to get them from point A to point B and then beyond. The TEKS are in the curriculum but the TEKS are not the curriculum. They're the skeleton you build the curriculum on.

