



Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc. Policy Statement

SUBJECT: Standards Expected for Performing Arts
POLICY NUMBER: BCA
DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: 5/9/06
CANCELS POLICY NO.: None

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/7/14
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: 3/2017
DATED: 3/7/2014

I. INTRODUCTION:

The Board of Education recognizes that K-12 arts education, including but not limited to dance, music, theater, and visual arts, is an integral part of core education for all students. Arts education enables students to develop critical and creative thinking skills, take initiative, foster self-discipline, and increase self-esteem. In any civilization, the arts are inseparable from the very meaning of the term “education.” To be truly educated, one must have knowledge and skills in creating art, art in context, and art as inquiry. In addition to specialized instruction in the arts, the knowledge and skills will be further enhanced by an integration of the arts across the other curricular areas. Furthermore, arts education may encourage students to incorporate the arts into all areas of life-long learning.

Whenever our students perform before their peers, parents, and the general public, the presentation is sending a message of the values that this district holds dear. This school district has an obligation to make certain that all performances show good taste and communicate that we recognized what is appropriate and what is inappropriate in all aspects of our performing arts program.

Therefore, the Governing Board establishes the following policy.

II. POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Governing Board that all student performances or those arranged by district personnel for the student body and general public will contain themes, topics, and language that are likely to be considered acceptable to all in attendance.

III. EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY:

None

IV. AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES:

A. TYPES OF PERFORMANCE THEMES THAT ARE NOT CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE IN THE SHONTO SCHOOLS

1. No fine arts performance may be presented to the student body or general public that contains acts or scenes that are sexually suggestive in nature, include obscene language, involve anti-American sentiments, attack one’s right to hold to a way of life that might be counter to the majority, or feature themes offensive to one’s religion or family values.



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2. No professional group contracted to perform before the student body may be contracted if such group has a prior reputation for violating the rules of good taste.

B. RESPONSIBILITY OF SPONSOR OR SUPERVISING TEACHER TO MEET WITH PRINCIPAL IF PROPOSED PROGRAM CONTAINS ANY MATERIAL THAT COULD BE PERCEIVED AS BEING CONTROVERSIAL

It is the responsibility of the person supervising a student performance arts program to meet with the building principal to fully explain any portion of the proposed performing arts program that could be construed as possibly offending members of the audience.

Based upon the information provided, the principal shall make a decision regarding what section(s) of the proposed performance can proceed and what section(s) if any must be eliminated. If the principal is not Navajo and does not fully understand possible cultural implications of such performance, he or she should seek out staff who do have such an understanding of the culture prior to rendering a decision.

If the principal does not approve the proposed student performance arts program, the person supervising the program may choose to meet with the Parent Advisory Committee. If the PAC supports the principal's denial, the matter is then dropped, and the proposed performance cannot proceed unless it is changed to fit the principal's wishes. If the PAC overrules the principal and supports the program as proposed, the matter shall be submitted to the Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc., who shall hear both sides and then render a decision.

C. CONSEQUENCES FOR DELIBERATE VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY

Any student or staff member who deliberately violates the provisions of this policy and performs actions or makes statements that are intended to shock the conscience of the reasonable person shall be given due process and disciplined in a manner befitting the situation and its severity. If the violation occurs during the performance, the principal is empowered to remove the individual immediately.

V. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:

All principals and directors are expected to review the contents of this policy annually with students and/or staff.

VI. EXPIRATION:

This policy expires three (3) years after its acceptance unless reapproved.



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VII. SIGNATURE BLOCK:

Submitted by: Lemual B. Adson
Superintendent

Date: 2/7/14

1st Review Reading: February 7, 2014

2nd Review Reading: March 7, 2014

Established: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martha Tate', is written over a horizontal line.

Martha Tate, President,
Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc.