

Counterpoints: Facilitating a dialogue about Standards Based Education

Jake Sturtevant

Music Educator

Bonny Eagle High School, Standish Maine

Maine Arts Assessment Initiative Resource Bank Team 2015

music.beband@gmail.com or jsturtevant@bonnyeagle.org

Project Introduction:

In this video resource I wanted to capture conversations, questions, concerns, and practical classroom applications about the shift to Standards Based Education in our school. I have found that there has often been a disconnect in communication and understanding educational philosophies among administrators, teachers, students, parents, and community members. There are many stakeholders in the educational process, and finding ways to allow everyone to have a voice is extremely important if a process is going to work.

Project Description:

This video includes a roundtable discussion between students, a music teacher, and administrators from Bonny Eagle High School about Standards Based Education. In the discussion questions and concerns are addressed about our current education system and the move towards Standards Based Education. The dialogue is also accompanied by a few short segments allowing for teacher and administrative perspectives, and examples of Standards Based learning in Fine Arts classrooms.

Project Use:

It is my hope that this resource will allow for guidance in other schools and districts to allow the student voice to be heard in the educational process. The video may be used in professional development, board meetings, administrative retreats, or classrooms to allow the opportunity for raising difficult questions and allowing the student voice to be heard as we move towards a restructuring of our education system. It is also important to see how the Arts and other electives are an *essential* component of the educational experience, and that they are not just “enrichment” opportunities for our students. Please feel free to use as much or as little of this resource as you see fit in your setting to allow for conversations to take place. Below are a list of Essential Questions, and example questions that you may raise in your conversation, and which helped structure and drive the dialogue captured in this video.

Discussion questions about Standards Based Education

[EQ: What should the education system do for students?](#)

- **What is it that you expect from your academic experience in High School?**
- **What things have helped you progress the most academically in school?**
- **When you get a grade in a class or on your report card now, what does it mean to you?**

[EQ: What do students know and what opinions have been formed about a Proficiency Based education system at the High School?](#)

- **What are students saying about “Standards Based Education¹” or “Performance Based Education”**
- **What is your experience with Standards Based classrooms?**
 - What have you liked about this experience?
 - What have you been confused about?
- **How will Proficiency Based Diplomas change our education system?**
- **How might a proficiency based class look different than the classes that you have been in throughout your life?**

[EQ: What is the importance of the Arts in a proficiency based system and does that differ from the current education system?](#)

- **What might a Proficiency based Arts classroom or assessment look like?**
- **How are the Arts an essential part of your *academic* educational experience now?**
- **In what ways do you see your Arts classes changing if at all in a proficiency based system?**
 - Do you think that it may be more difficult to meet standards in these classes than it may be now?

[EQ: How can teachers and administrators help facilitate discussions and educate students, other teachers, and the community about a Proficiency Based system in our school?](#)

- Do you as students feel that you have a voice in the discussion of what your education will look like in a proficiency based school? If so, how? If not, then how could we encourage you to be part of the discussion better?
- As administrators and teachers, what are things that we can do to educate students, teachers, and the community about a Proficiency Based System in our school?

Administrative & Faculty Questions:

- Do you think that there is something important to this Standards Based Education movement that will help students learn better?
- What do you think will be the most difficult challenge in moving forward with this new system in our school?
- What do you think the students think or know about Standards Based Education, and how can we help facilitate learning more about the movement in our school and in our community?
- Do you feel that the student voice is one that needs to be heard as we move forward with this new system?
 - How will student voices inform decision-making at the school-wide and district-wide level?

Arts Assessment Resources:

¹ Standards vs. Proficiency Based: In education, both standards-based and proficiency-based refers to systems of instruction, **assessment**, grading, and academic reporting that are based on students demonstrating understanding or mastery of the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn as they progress through their education. (Great Schools Partnership definitions.)

Jake Sturtevant's Arts Assessment Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/artsassessmentjakesturt/>
Maine Arts Assessment Resources: <http://www.maineartsassessment.com/>
MAAI Resource Bank: <http://maairesourcebank.pbworks.com/w/page/82916230/MAAI%20Resource%20Bank>
Maine Arts Commission Arts Education: <https://mainearts.maine.gov/Pages/Education/Arts-in-Education>
Maine Arts Assessment: [wiki http://maineartsassessment.pbworks.com](http://maineartsassessment.pbworks.com)
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