

## **Joint Statement on Certification in Arts Education**

*by*

*The Ad Hoc Consortium of National Arts Education Associations*

*American Alliance for Theatre and Education*

*Music Educators National Conference*

*National Art Education Association*

*National Dance Association*

*Adopted March, 1992*

The arts education associations support responsible efforts to improve the quality of American education at all levels and in every aspect of the curriculum. In so doing they assume that such efforts must include balanced, comprehensive, and sequential instruction in each of the arts and that these programs must be taught by qualified Art, Dance, Music, and Theatre teachers.

State certification requirements for teachers in art, dance, music, and theatre can provide one important measure in assuring that only those who are qualified teach art, dance, music, and theatre classes. Yet not all states offer certification in each of the arts and among the states that do offer such certification, requirements vary so widely that such certification cannot be regarded as an accurate measure of sufficient training in the art form. Therefore, the following statement regarding teacher certification in the arts has been developed to serve as a consensus statement by educators in the arts in America's schools:

To assure a comprehensive education for all students, early childhood to grade 12, each state must:

1. Require certification for all teachers of art, music, dance, and theatre; and,
2. Require that all teachers assigned to teach these subjects be certified in that arts discipline.

Certification requirements to teach art, dance, music, and theatre must include sufficient course work to assure adequate knowledge of the subject matter, pedagogical competence as a teacher and artist in the specific discipline and attitudes conducive to facilitating the students professional development, creativity, aesthetic appreciation, and ethical standards.

It is therefore recommended that teacher certification in art, dance, music, or theatre be granted to those students who have successfully completed a bachelors degree program wherein the course distribution, as specified by appropriate accrediting agencies, is appropriate for achieving the goals stated above and is consistent with certification requirements in other subject areas.