

To: Fred Williams, Chair

Faculty Senate Academic Program Committee

From: Timothy D. Brakel, Professor of Music Education

Re: Response to Early Childhood Education Academic Program Modification Letter Dated April 18, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Early Childhood Education Academic Program Modification Letter. I understand that you need this response overnight so I will address the most critical issues as they relate to licensure, and curriculum issues due to the time crunch. I could provide additional information regarding other issues in the Early Childhood's response if given more time to respond.

The early childhood program faculty indicate that early childhood teachers would need to take a minimum of 30 hours as a music major to meet the highly qualified status for the fine arts. There is an important difference between specialists and licensed. The specialist would require the higher threshold of coursework as stated in their letter. An early childhood teacher can be asked to teach all subject areas including music due to their licensure. We disagree with the early childhood proposal as they only need to be licensed to teach early childhood in order to meet the highly qualified status under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. As further evidence of this, please see the following document on the State of Ohio Department of Education website, which was updated January 27, 2017, that states that elementary teachers are "validly credentialed" to "teach any course in the relevant grade range." (**Bold** added below for emphasis.)

[https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Additional-Information/Certification-and-Licensure-Dictionary/20170127\\_Valid\\_Cred\\_Gen\\_Rules.pdf.aspx](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Additional-Information/Certification-and-Licensure-Dictionary/20170127_Valid_Cred_Gen_Rules.pdf.aspx)

*Valid Credentials: General Rules*

*Introduction*

*This document is designed to assist districts in implementing the requirements and in ensuring that **PreK-12 educators are assigned to classes they are validly credentialed to teach.** It identifies the credentials required for teaching specific courses. Teachers are to hold one of the credentials identified in this document for each course they teach.*

*Elementary Credentials*

*Courses in the elementary grade range, other than PE, do not appear in this document, because a general rule for elementary credentials applies to all such courses. The general rule for elementary credentials (i.e., Kindergarten-Primary (KP), Kindergarten-Elementary (KE), Elementary (EL), Early Childhood (EC), endorsements extending the grade range of EC credentials) **allows the teachers who hold these credentials to teach any course within the relevant grade range.** An exception to this rule is*

for those initially hired on or after July 1, 2013, to teach physical education. These teachers must be licensed in PE and are included in this document.

Also, Early Childhood Programs must align to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Professional Preparation Standards

[https://www.ohiohighered.org/content/ohio\\_educator\\_licensure\\_programs\\_standards\\_requirements\\_chart#ECE](https://www.ohiohighered.org/content/ohio_educator_licensure_programs_standards_requirements_chart#ECE)

On page 37 of the NAEYC Standards, it states that the *Early Childhood curriculum content / discipline areas include:* • *Learning goals, experiences and assessment in academic disciplines or content areas including* • *Language and literacy* • *The arts: Music, creative movement, dance, drama, and visual arts* • *Mathematics* • *Science* • *Physical activity, physical education, health and safety* • *Social studies*

*Designing, implementing and evaluating meaningful, challenging curriculum requires alignment with appropriate early learning standards, and knowledgeable use of the discipline’s resources to focus on key experiences for each age group and each individual child.*

You can see that the curriculum includes music and physical education. It further indicates that the early childhood teacher must be able to knowledgeably use the discipline’s resources. Since the early childhood teacher is licensed to teach music, they need to have coursework within music education so that they can teach it effectively. We do not believe that the Early Childhood Program’s statement regarding working to infuse the appropriate level of music content into their methods courses is sufficient for those majors to appropriately teach music.

Additional evidence for elementary childhood majors taking music education courses can be found in the State of Ohio’s New Learning Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 3. You will notice that there is a creativity strand with a Topic: Expression of Ideas and Feelings through the Arts. While music is not explicitly stated here, it does state the ability to do this through a variety of media.

<file:///C:/Users/User/Desktop/K-3-Standards.pdf>

### STRAND: CREATIVITY

Pre-Kindergarten (3-5 Years)	End of Grade 1	End of Grade 3
<b>Topic: Innovation and Invention</b>		
<b>Standard Statements:</b> Use imagination and creativity to interact with objects and materials.  Use creative and flexible thinking to solve problems.  Engage in inventive social play.	<b>Standard Statements:</b> Interact with a wide variety of objects and materials without concern of product or outcome.  Identify differences between problem types and adapt strategies based on the type of problem.  Engage in elaborate, inventive and social play.	<b>Standard Statements:</b> Interact with a wide variety of objects and materials with the end product as the focus.  Work backwards from a proposed solution in order to solve a problem.  Negotiate and integrate the ideas of others in the elaboration of inventive social play.
<b>Topic: Expression of Ideas and Feelings through the Arts</b>		
<b>Standard Statements:</b> Express individuality, life experiences, and what one knows and is able to do through a variety of media.  Express interest in and show appreciation for the creative work of others.	<b>Standard Statements:</b> Demonstrate an awareness of possibilities when creating something with a variety of media.  Identify and describe reasons for the creative work of others.	<b>Standard Statements:</b> Demonstrate a set idea of how to portray different creations or thoughts through a variety of media.  Compare and contrast the creative work of others.

The Early Childhood Program states that they have reviewed the Ohio Kindergarten – Grade 3 academic standards and that music is not mentioned as a content area. They are ignoring the Ohio Revised Code and the State of Ohio Prescribed Curriculum. Further, there are Ohio Academic Content Standards for Music and Physical Education. The music standards are listed by grade level starting with Kindergarten and can be found at the web address below.

The State of Ohio Revised Code of Law explicitly states what is the prescribed curriculum within the public school. Both Physical Education and Music Education are part of the prescribed curriculum.

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3313.60> States the Prescribed Curriculum to include

- (6) Physical education;
- (7) The fine arts, including music;

The prescribed curriculum is also stated on the State of Ohio’s Department of Education website as follows:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Operating-Standards/Table-of-Contents/Curriculum>

## 1.1 Prescribed Curriculum

### **3313.60**

The local school board approves a curriculum for all schools under its control. This curriculum must include the following subjects.

- o Language arts; Third Grade Reading Guarantee
- o Geography; history of the United States and of Ohio; and national, state, and local government in the United States;
- o Mathematics;
- o Natural science;
- o Health education;
- o Physical education;
- o The fine arts; and
- o First aid.

In addition, the following curricula also are required.

- o Personal safety and assault prevention;
- o Foreign language;
- o Technology;
- o Family and consumer sciences; and
- o Business education (Ohio Core-Financial Literacy).

The Ohio Academic Content Standards for Music can be found here:

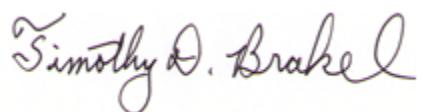
<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Ohio-s-New-Learning-Standards/Fine-Arts/Ohio-Music-Standards-Final-2.pdf.aspx>

The Ohio Physical Education Standards can be found here:

<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Ohios-Learning-Standards/Physical-Education/Updated-Physical-Education-Standards.pdf.aspx>

We don't disagree with the Early Childhood Program's position that music should be taught by specialists. As music educators, we believe all music should be taught by music specialists. However, we believe that the above evidence does not fully support our position that this current proposal does not fully meet the established expectations for early childhood teachers. Early Childhood Teachers are licensed to teach music and should receive music methods instruction. Music Theory for the Non-Major (3 credit hours) counts in the humanities core curriculum and serves as a prerequisite to the Music for the Early Childhood (2 credit hours) course. These 2 courses serve as the foundation for the early childhood majors to properly teach the Academic Content Standards for Music and provide the best way for them to learn this academic curriculum. We should be afforded the same position as the art education curriculum which is not being eliminated in this proposal. Therefore, we appeal to the Faculty Senate to deny the current proposal for the Early Childhood Program Modification.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy D. Brakel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Dr. Timothy D. Brakel