



**New York State YMCA**  
**Youth And Government**

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**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate Liberty 2

Bill #:SL-15

1 **Sponsors:** Paige Rivera and Leah Kilkenny

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend Article 8 CRR-NY 100.5 of the New York State Education Law to alter the general  
5 requirements for a Regents or local high school diploma to include a sequence in the fine arts.  
6 Students will have to take three units of fine arts credits.

7

8 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact***  
9 ***as follows:***

10

11 **Purpose**

12 To promote the education of the fine arts as an important part of a student's curriculum. Thus,  
13 creating a more well-rounded and open-minded student who thrives in diverse learning and  
14 professional environments.

15

16 **Summary of Provisions**

17 **Section 1: Definitions**

18 Fine arts- classes pertaining to the arts such as music, theater, dance, visual arts, and the like.

19 Unit of Credit- awarded upon completion and passing of a class, required to graduate.

20 **Section 2**

21 (3)Students first entering grade nine in the 2008-2009 school year and thereafter shall have  
22 earned at least 22 units of credit including two credits in physical education to receive a Regents  
23 diploma. Such units of credit shall incorporate the commencement level of the State learning  
24 standards in: English; social studies; mathematics, science, technology; the arts (including  
25 visual arts, music, dance and theatre); languages other than English; health, physical education,  
26 family and consumer sciences; and career development and occupational studies. Such units of  
27 credit shall include:

28 (i) English, four units of commencement level credit;

29 (ii) social studies, four units of credit as set forth in paragraph (6) of this subdivision;

30 (iii) science, three units of credit of commencement level science, at least one course shall be  
31 life sciences and at least one in the physical sciences, the third may be either life sciences or  
32 physical sciences;

33 (iv) mathematics, three units of credit of mathematics, which shall be at a more advanced level  
34 than grade eight, shall meet commencement level learning standards as determined by the  
35 commissioner, provided that no more than two credits shall be earned for any Integrated  
36 Algebra, Geometry, or Algebra 2 and Trigonometry commencement level mathematics course;

37 (v) visual arts and/or music, dance, or theatre, ~~one~~ three unit of credit; and

38 (vi) health education, one-half unit of credit in accordance with the requirements set forth in  
39 section 135.3(c) of this Title. Learning standards in the area of parenting shall be attained  
40 through either the health or family and consumer sciences programs or a separate course.

41 **Justification**



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42 This bill will benefit all students immensely, as exposure to the fine arts for an extended amount  
43 of time will have positive effects. Participation in the fine arts such as playing an instrument,  
44 acting in a play, sketching a design, or performing a dance stimulates parts of the mind that  
45 math, science, and other traditional subjects cannot. Students with exposure to arts education  
46 become more in-touch with their emotions and studies have seen a direct correlation between  
47 artistic expression and better mental health. Yet, fine arts are viewed as less than core  
48 subjects. With upping the number of fine arts credits needed, to match those of science and  
49 math, it will promote art education and impact students lives greatly.

50

51 **Fiscal Implications**

52 Fiscal Implications regarding this bill will be minimal, but present. Some schools may now  
53 expect an increase of the number of students enrolled in fine arts classes, which would result in  
54 the need for an increase of materials. If schools should need a larger budget to accomodate for  
55 more materials, they may apply for grants or request it from their school's board of education.  
56 Since all NYS schools have a pre-existing fine arts program, they're shouldn't be an enormous  
57 need for new funds.

58

59 **Effective Date**

60 Start of the 2020 Fall School Year for students starting their 9th grade year in 2020 (expected  
61 graduating class of 2024).