

# A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



## Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for sixth grade dance education and offers some possible learning experiences students may engage in during this school year.

## Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are ultimately successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas, emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

## Dance Education for Middle Schools (6-8)

The dance standards in the middle school years focus on basic to intermediate level dance knowledge, as well as technique and performance skills in more specialized dance studies (ballet, folk, contemporary, choreography). In each grade, students investigate and demonstrate competence and confidence in performing various dance styles and genres, gain an awareness of fitness and the healthy body's potential for movement, refine critical thinking skills such as describing and interpreting, and creatively problem-solve through dance making.

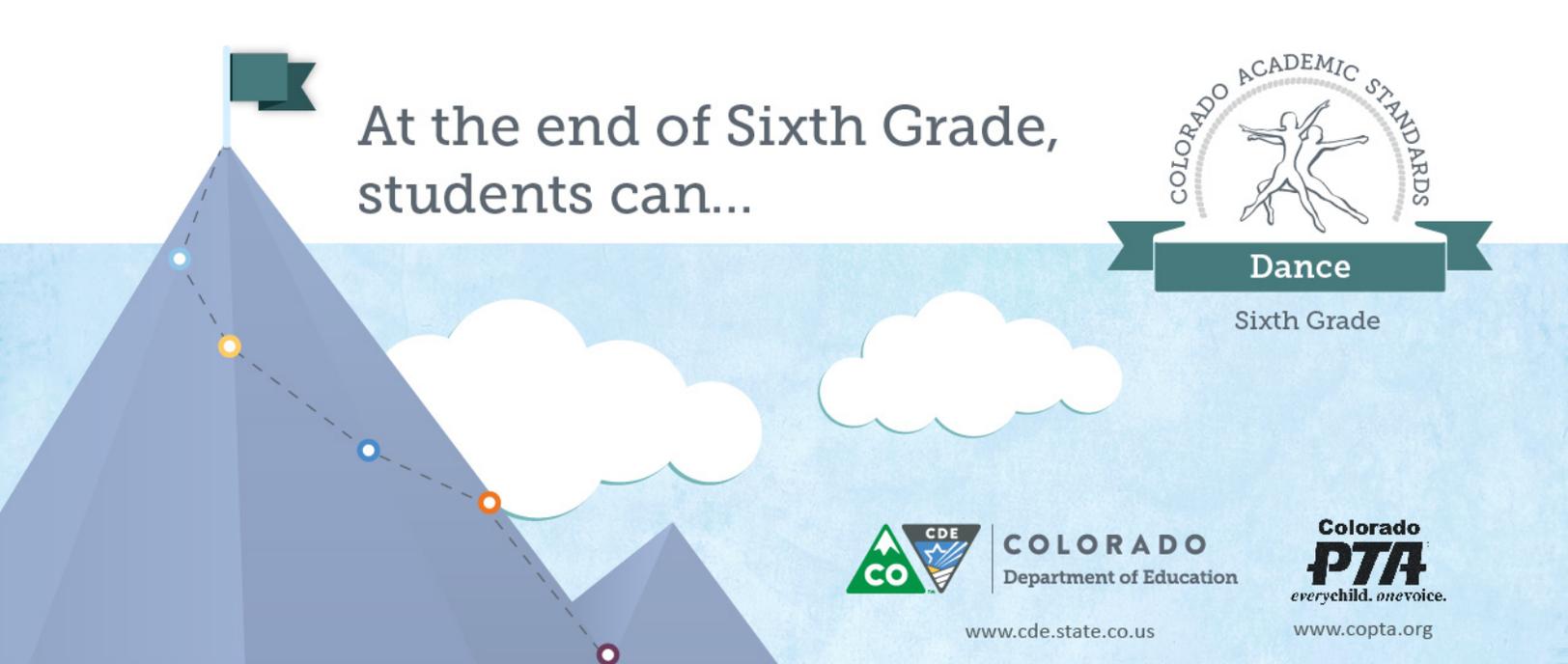
## Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Karol Gates, Colorado Arts Content Specialist at 720-202-9268, [Gates\\_k@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Gates_k@cde.state.co.us)



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# At the end of Sixth Grade, students can...



**Dance**

Sixth Grade



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The Colorado Academic Standards in Dance are organized by elements of the Creative Process:  
Perform/Present → Create → Know/Comprehend → Critique/Evaluate/Refine

## Dance Education Learning Expectations for Sixth Grade

### Movement, Technique, and Performance (Perform/Present)

Perform basic warm-ups and movement phrases with skill in a variety of dance styles and genres (folk, country, musical theatre, ballet, hip hop, tap).

### Create, Compose and Choreograph (Create)

Articulate creative choices required to develop choreography; demonstrate basic composition skills.

### Historical and Cultural Context (Know/Comprehend)

Recognize that culture and geography are reflected in traditions and heritage and have informed various dance styles.

### Reflect, Connect, and Respond (Critique/Evaluate/Refine)

Critically analyze and document dance works through verbal and/or written description.

## Throughout the Sixth Grade, you may find students successfully applying the elements of the creative process by...

- Demonstrating movement warm-ups (stretching, patterned exercises, slow execution and gradually speeding up) and basic technical skills in multiple styles of dance genres (folk, country, musical theatre, ballet, hip hop, tap).
- Articulating creative choreographic choices (movement patterns or pace of movement) and demonstrating a basic knowledge of compositional (dance-making) skills such as a strong beginning and ending to a dance.
- Relating certain dances from varied cultures to geographic locations.
- Analyzing/evaluating classic dance works as well as student created dances.