

A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Extended Pathway
High School



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 high school dance education and offers some possible learning experiences students may engage in during this time.

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 High Schools (9-12)

The dance standards for the high school years divide into two different pathways: fundamental and extended. In both, the focus is on advanced skill levels of technical proficiency and body mechanics and awareness, along with utilizing artistic and expressive performance skills. The extended pathway is best structured for advanced dance students who are encouraged to develop a leadership role as they work collaboratively with peers and dance educators. The extended pathway also requires in-depth research into world cultures and master dance works, then applying a critical analysis that articulates cultural connections to dance.

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



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At the end of High School, students can...



Dance

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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 an Extended Pathway in High School

Movement, Technique, and Performance (Perform/Present)

Perform advanced movement with artistic interpretation and expression; produce a multi-faceted dance performance; work independently and collaboratively with peers.

Create, Compose and Choreograph (Create)

Refine the creative process (perform/create/comprehend/reflect) in dance-making; compose dance works that convey meaning and intent.

Historical and Cultural Context (Know/Comprehend)

Research and investigate two or more cultural dance traditions to be used in performance situations.

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

Apply formal, critical analysis to multiple forms of dance in pre-collegiate or professional performance situations.

Throughout the Extended Pathway
in High School, you may find students
successfully applying the elements of
the creative process by...

- Demonstrating and performing advanced movement as a creative artist.
- Showing leadership by creating dance works for and directing others in dance performances.
- Refining their personal creative process (perform/create/comprehend/reflect) for dance-making, and problem solving by combining multiple choreographic strategies.
- Independently investigating historical dance traditions to inspire new dance works.
- Articulating an understanding of the creative process (perform/create/comprehend/reflect) and the connections dance has to society historically and in current cultural context.