

# 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 First Grade Music. This guide offers some learning experiences students may engage in during this school year, experiences that may also be supported at home.

## Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are 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.

## Music Education for Elementary Schools (k-5)

The music standards in the elementary years focus on General Music knowledge and skills to ensure a solid foundation for more specialized musical study in later years (band, choir, orchestra, composing, arranging). In each elementary grade, students investigate and perform various music styles and genres, examine the language of music through identifying and writing simple music notation, consider simple musical composition processes, and develop the ability to describe their own musical preferences as well as critique the music of others.

## 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)



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

**Colorado**  
**PTA**  
everychild. onevoice.

At the end of  
First Grade,  
students can...

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

## Music Learning Expectations for First Grade

### Expression of Music (Perform/Present)

Sing and play simple songs; move to various cues from their teacher; sing basic music pitch and beat patterns.

### Creation of Music (Create)

Add new words to well-known songs; play individually created simple music selections.

### Theory of Music (Know/Comprehend)

Use musical vocabulary to discuss when songs are fast/slow, loud/soft; identify patterns in simple musical selections such as beginning, middle, and end; demonstrate a simple, steady beat.

### Aesthetic Valuation of Music (Critique/Evaluate/Refine)

Participate in musical activities using positive behavior choices; describe moods/feeling portrayed in music; describe where and when music can be heard in peoples' daily lives.

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

- Moving while following the teacher's hand gestures (walk with an arm wave, stop with an arm stop); singing simple pitches and following beats while the teacher points to musical notes.
- Singing along with their teacher to a well-known song ("The Wheels on the Bus"); singing or playing a song and adding something new (speeding up or slowing down the beat).
- Clapping to rhythms in a song; describing musical selections using basic music vocabulary.
- Discussing the sounds of a musical selection ("it sounds like a big bear" or, "it sounds like a little mouse"); explaining personal likes and dislikes about kinds of music; using movement to show the personal feelings a piece of music creates.

