

Colorado Academic Standards Music

The Colorado Academic Standards in music are the topical organization of the concepts and skills all Colorado students should know and be able to do throughout their preschool through twelfth-grade experience.

1. Expression of Music

The expression of music is the demonstration of human thought and emotion through the medium of performance, which is a product of knowledge and skills gained in the study of music.

2. Creation of Music

The creation of music is the demonstration of learned skills in the composition, improvisation, and arranging of music. Creating music involves writing music, fashioning new music from an existing piece of music, or forming an entirely new piece of music.

3. Theory of Music

The theory of music is the understanding of the distinctive language, conventions, mechanics, and structure of organized sound. Investigation of music theory allows for a more complete understanding of all aspects of the musical process, including musical performance and composition.

4. Aesthetic Valuation of Music

The value of music focuses on the knowledge needed to make an informed evaluation and to provide a well-thought-out critique about a musical piece. It also addresses the beauty, heart, and soul: the aesthetics of music. Valuing music will permit individuals to distinguish between a scholarly and an individual judgment of music.

Purpose of Performance and Generalist Pathways in High School

To meet the basic needs of all students and the advanced needs of those pursuing careers in music, the Standards Review Committee has developed a **generalist** and **performance** track.

The generalist track describes students who have limited interest in music performance or music-related vocations, or whose interest lies within other aspects of music-related vocations, such as sound engineering where their performance or music literacy skills do not require the highest level of musicianship or ability. Some students in the generalist pathway may not have pursued music performance in grades 5-8, and may have minimal performance skills and experience. Students are still expected to meet all of the graduate competencies, but at a less rigorous level.

The performance track is directed at students who intend to pursue postsecondary education or vocation in music that might lead to careers in music education, music performance, composition, production, music business, or other music-related areas. The expectations in the performance track meet all of the graduate competencies with a much higher degree of rigor, appropriate to the expectations of postsecondary music opportunities.

Vocal and Instrumental Expectations

The expectations in these standards are for both vocal and instrumental music. There are specific standards for instrumental or vocal technique; otherwise all expectations can and should be applied to all musicians, instrumental and vocal.

1. Expression of Music

The Expression of Music is the demonstration of human thought and emotion through the medium of performance, which is a product of knowledge and skills gained in the study of music.

Prepared Graduates

The prepared graduate competencies are the preschool through twelfth-grade concepts and skills that all students who complete the Colorado education system must master to ensure their success in a postsecondary and workforce setting.

Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Expression of Music Standard:

- Employ musical skills through a variety of means, including singing, playing instruments, and purposeful movement
- Demonstrate the expressive elements of music – including melody, harmony, rhythm, style, genre, texture, voicing/instrumentation, mood, tonality, and form – through voice, musical instruments, and/or the use of electronic tools
- Perform music with appropriate technique and level of expression at an appropriate level of difficulty in sight reading and prepared performance
- Demonstrate the processes of development of musical literature from rehearsal to performance, exhibiting appropriate interpersonal and expressive skills, both individually and within ensembles

2. Creation of Music

The Creation of Music involves the demonstration of learned skills in the composition, improvisation, and arranging of music. Creating music involves writing music, fashioning new music from an existing piece of music, or forming an entirely new piece of music.

Prepared Graduates

The prepared graduate competencies are the preschool through twelfth-grade concepts and skills that all students who complete the Colorado education system must master to ensure their success in a postsecondary and workforce setting.

Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Creation of Music Standard:

- Create music by composing and/or arranging what is heard or envisioned, in notated or non-notated form, with or without the use of music technology, demonstrating originality and technical understanding
- Display instrumental or vocal improvisation skills by performing extemporaneously what is created in the mind

3. Theory of Music

The Theory of Music focuses on the understanding of the distinctive language, conventions, mechanics, and structure of music. Investigation of music theory allows for a more complete understanding of all aspects of the musical process, including musical performance and composition.

Prepared Graduates

The prepared graduate competencies are the preschool through twelfth-grade concepts and skills that all students who complete the Colorado education system must master to ensure their success in a postsecondary and workforce setting.

Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Theory of Music Standard:

- Read and employ the language and vocabulary of music in discussing musical examples and writing music, including technology related to melody, harmony, rhythm, style, genre, voicing/orchestration, mood, tonality, expression, and form
- Demonstrate melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic aural skills through identification, transcription, and vocalization or instrumental playback of aural musical examples

4. Aesthetic Valuation of Music

The value of music focuses on the knowledge needed to make an informed evaluation and to provide a well-thought-out critique about a musical piece. It also addresses the beauty, heart, and soul: the aesthetics of music. Valuing music will permit individuals to distinguish between a scholarly and an individual judgment of music.

Prepared Graduates

The prepared graduate competencies are the preschool through twelfth-grade concepts and skills that all students who complete the Colorado education system must master to ensure their success in a postsecondary and workforce setting.

Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Aesthetic Valuation of Music Standard:

- Make informed, critical evaluations of the effectiveness of musical works and performances on the basis of aesthetic qualities, technical excellence, musicality, or convincing expression of feelings and ideas related to cultural and ideological associations
- Develop a framework for making informed personal musical choices, and utilize that framework in the making and defending of musical choices
- Demonstrate a nuanced understanding of aesthetics in music, appropriate to the particular features of given styles and genres, as it relates to the human experience in music
- Know the place of each of the participants in the performance environment and practice appropriate audience participation; recognize the place and importance of music in life