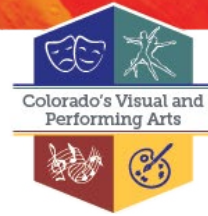


# Visual and Performing Arts Education

# eUpdate



Colorado Academic Standards | All Students All Standards | December 2025/January 2026



Artwork by Mars Basso, *Once I Was*, Grade 12, Acrylic on Canvas, Eagle Valley High School, Gypsum, CO.

## NEWS

Important information from CDE  
Standards and Instructional Support



### Arts Think Tank Meeting

February 11, 2026, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

**SAVE THE  
DATE**

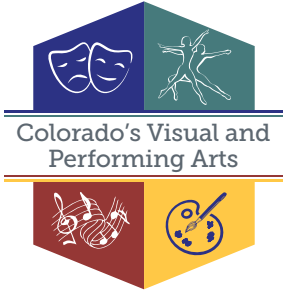
The spring Colorado Department Education (CDE) Arts Think Tank meeting will take place virtually on February 11, 2026. If you are a district leader or community arts leader and are interested in joining the conversation, email Carla at [Aguilar\\_C@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Aguilar_C@cde.state.co.us) to receive the calendar invite and meeting link.

# NEWS

MORE



## Creative Conversations



CDE's Creative Conversation Series continues with our arts focused professional development for the 2025-2026 school year. Two more virtual sessions remain, each designed to support and inspire educators across Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts. All sessions are free and participants will be eligible to receive 1.5 hours of license renewal credit.

In case you missed one of our Trauma-Informed Practices in the Arts sessions this year, we will host one additional session in the spring. Details can be found in the "Upcoming Sessions" section below.

## UPCOMING SESSIONS

### ***Arts in Action: Project-Based Learning for Creative Classrooms***

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**Wednesday, February 18, 4:30-6:00 pm, virtual, via Zoom**

Designed for arts teachers, leaders, and administrators, this session explores practical strategies for using project-based learning (PBL) in the arts classroom. In this session, we will use PBL as an approach to encourage student engagement, strengthen creative problem-solving and support real-world artistic work in Dance, Drama and Theatre Arts, Music and Visual Arts. Participants will gain ready-to-use ideas, connect with colleagues across the state and access ongoing support from your statewide arts specialists.

[Click here](#) to register for Arts in Action.

### ***Trauma-Informed Practices in the Arts***

Date TBD, Early March 2026, 4:30-6:00 pm, virtual, via Zoom.

**ADDED SESSION**

### ***Community Engagement in the Arts***

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 4:30-6:00 pm, virtual, via Zoom.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Events for

# EDUCATORS



**CAEA**  
COLORADO ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

**ARTSOURCE**  
COLORADO

## Open Call for Entries

**Submissions Accepted through January 17, 2026**

Colorado Art Education Association (CAEA) members are invited to submit up to three (3) works of art to a juried exhibition hosted by Artsource Colorado. The exhibition, entitled Artistry in Scale: Intimate to Expansive, will showcase original artworks around the themes of changing scale, context or understanding. You can find the [submission form here](#).

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## CoDEO Annual Dance Education Conference

**January 17-18, 2026**

**Pueblo Convention Center, Pueblo**



**CoDEO**

Students in grades 8 through college and all educators are invited to this two-day Colorado Dance Education Organization (CoDEO) Annual Conference. The event features performances by professionals, colleges, and students, an intensive choreography experience with professional choreographers, workshops for both students and educators, and strong networking and recruiting opportunities within the Colorado dance community. Learn more at the CoDEO conference site. You can find the [submission form here](#).

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## CMEA Annual Educator Conference

**January 29-31, 2026**

**The Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs**



**cmea**  
Colorado Music  
Educators Association

Join music educators from across the state this January for the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) annual conference. This annual gathering brings classroom teachers, ensemble directors, teaching artists, and leaders together for inspiring sessions, hands-on workshops, and performances that celebrate the power of music education in our schools. You can register on the [CMEA website](#).



Events for

# EDUCATORS



## Institute for Creative Teaching

**SAVE THE DATE**

June 9–11, 2026

University of Northern Colorado, Greeley

Think 360 Arts for Learning will hold its annual professional development intensive, the Institute for Creative Teaching (ICT) from June 9–11, 2026. Hosted on the University of Northern Colorado campus in Greeley, ICT consists of three days of workshops with professional teaching artists and UNC faculty, keynotes with special guest artists, and opportunities to nurture your teaching and artistic practices through hands-on experiences. This program is open to educators of all subject areas and grade levels. Participants will earn up to 21 professional development contact hours toward educator re-licensure and will have the option of registering for 1 continuing education graduate credit from UNC for a small additional fee. Sign up for the Think 360 [newsletter](#) to receive updates on registration, scholarships for attendance and more.



## Think 360 Year-Round Programming

Think 360 offers year-round programming with our [roster of teaching artists](#) spanning all artistic mediums. Their programs range from artist workshops and residencies in schools, community centers, and aging-adult facilities to arts- and SEL-integrated professional development for teachers and businesses. Think 360 offers partial subsidies to ensure that cost is never a preventative barrier towards experiencing the joys of art. If interested, please submit a [program inquiry form](#) through our website.



# Events for

# STUDENTS



## Poetry Out Loud

**Submissions Accepted until January 10, 2026**



Registration is still open for Colorado's Poetry Out Loud Competition! This is a free program that encourages high school students to engage and recite poetry. **Teachers need to register before January 10, 2026.**

Colorado students can compete to represent the state at the national competition in Washington, D.C., from April 27-29, 2026. We invite your high school to join! POL provides free materials, teacher support, and guest poet visits.

To register or learn more, visit the [Poetry Out Loud Website](#) or email: [copoet@empowered-people.com](mailto:copoet@empowered-people.com)

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## Spring Voice Major for a Day

**March 10, 2026 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**CSU, University Center for the Arts, Fort Collins**



Join the Colorado State University (CSU) music department on the CSU campus and experience a day in the life of a music major in the voice area! The day is an opportunity for high school students, transfer students, associate degree graduates and current CSU students (and their parents/guardians) to see what it is like being a music major at CSU.

Participants will be able to:

- Attend a choir rehearsal, opera performance and a class within their degree area (Bachelor of Music in Music Education, Music Therapy, Performance or Bachelor of Arts in Music)
- Have lunch with current students (Please bring \$15/visiting student; parents and chaperones on your own for lunch)
- Engage in a voice lesson with a faculty member

Parents are welcome! Visit this [CSU webpage](#) for more information and to register.



# Events for STUDENTS



## BassoonARAMa / OboeARAMa

March 7, 2026 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CSU, University Center for the Arts, Fort Collins



Since 2006, BassoonARAMa and OboeARAMa Sponsored by Marigaux have brought together bassoonists and oboeists of all ages! The day-long event features today's multifaceted musicians who explore what it means to have a life and success in and around music. Guest clinicians include chamber and orchestral musicians, college professors, music researchers and professional reed manufacturers.

We welcome bassoon and oboe students of all levels, teachers and enthusiasts to join us for a day of masterclasses, academic presentations, reed roundtables, recitals and discussions about all things bassoon and oboe.

Visit this [CSU webpage](#) for more information.

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## Colorado State Univeristy (CSU) Trumpet Day

March 28, 2026 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CSU, University Center for the Arts, Fort Collins



This event is designed for trumpet players of all ages and experience who are looking for an in-person event that inspires their love of music and all things trumpet.

Trumpet students, teachers, performers and band directors in Colorado are invited to attend this annual event hosted by CSU trumpet professor Dr. Stanley Curtis. The event features special guests who will discuss their careers and ideas on trumpet playing.

Visit this [CSU webpage](#) for more information and to register.

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## Percussion Ensemble Competition & Festival

April 25, 2026 7:30 a.m. -5 p.m.

CSU, University Center for the Arts, Fort Collins



The Percussive Arts Society (PAS) Percussion Ensemble Competitions & Festivals give students throughout the United States opportunities to learn music and percussion through performance and expert adjudicator feedback.

The Percussion Ensemble Competitions and Festivals include competitive and non-competitive divisions for high school and middle school/junior high groups as well as a non-competitive division for independent groups of middle to high school-age performers.

Visit the [PAS website](#) for more information and to register.



# We Want to Hear from You!

## Send Us Your Happenings!

The CDE Arts Education e-Updates are sent **five times** during the school year:

August/September, October/November, December/January, February/March, and April/May.

Send information to [Latva\\_L@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Latva_L@cde.state.co.us) **by the 1st day of the month** for your news to be included in an edition.

## Featured Artwork Submissions

Send us a photo of a student artwork or performance to be featured in our eUpdate!

Submissions should include ***Title, Name of Artist, Grade, Media, School***. One school will be featured in each bi-monthly eUpdate.

Send submissions to [Latva\\_L@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Latva_L@cde.state.co.us) by the 1st of the month.



Colorado's Visual and  
Performing Arts

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## Colorado State Arts Partners

[Colorado Creative Industries](#)

[Think 360 Arts](#)

## Colorado Arts Associations

[Colorado Arts Education  
Association \(CAEA\)](#)

[Colorado Music Educators  
Association \(CMEA\)](#)

[Colorado State Thespians](#)

[Colorado Dance Education  
Organization \(CoDEO\)](#)

## CDE Quick Links

[CDE Arts Webpage](#)

[Colorado Academic Standards](#)

## Student Success Guides

[Student Success Guides](#)

are designed for parents, guardians, caretakers, and communities. They act as a toolkit of questions and activities to support students' learning in alignment with the Colorado Academic Standards.

