

# 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 Second Grade Dance. 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.

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

The dance standards in the elementary years focus on general dance knowledge and skills to ensure a solid foundation for more specialized dance study in later years (ballet, folk, contemporary, choreographic work). In each grade, students investigate and perform various dances, talk about and write in the language of dance (choreography, movements), consider dance creation processes, and develop the ability to describe personal dance preferences and provide constructive feedback on dance performances.

## 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  
Second Grade,  
students can...

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 Second Grade

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

Demonstrate how to watch and recreate movements; accurately and expressively (with emotion, focus, and/or style) perform simple dance sequences.

### Create, Compose and Choreograph (Create)

Create dances that use a short phrase (specific segments within a full dance) or gesture that is repeated within the dance.

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

Identify the costumes and types of music used in dances from different cultures; discuss the ways dance is used in various societal/community traditions.

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

Identify differences between different dance styles and cultural dances (ballet, tap, jazz, Latin, African); discuss the emotions connected with performing or watching particular dances (happy, sad, angry)

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

- Demonstrating a variety of simple dance movement combinations and dance games.
- Choosing how to move to music or following a teacher's movements.
- Assisting their classmates and teacher in composing a class dance about a favorite story or character.
- Sorting costume pictures according to dance styles (tutus with ballet, ruffled and layered skirts with square dancing).
- Discussing when/where dances are performed in various community celebrations.
- Discussing the traditions, culture, and nation/country connected with a specific dance.
- Explaining personal dance preferences.

