

# 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 Fourth 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  
Fourth 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 Fourth Grade

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

Perform dance sequences using safe techniques; perform dance combinations that use the elements of space (levels of the body and floor), time (speed and pacing), and energy (intensity of movements).

### Create, Compose and Choreograph (Create)

Follow criteria for choreographing (arranging, composing, or creating a dance) and/or adapting a simple group dance using basic dance patterns.

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

Recognize how dance communicates values and beliefs in different cultures; recognize meaning and intent in famous dance pieces.

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

Discuss the differences and similarities of various choreographers; connect training in dance class to the rehearsal and performance process.

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

- Performing dance sequences that emphasize the elements of dance (space, time, and energy); exploring different ways to change a group dance phrase (specific segments within a full dance).
- Following a new floor pattern for a specific intention such as making the mood more lively or more somber.
- Discussing the differences between different dance styles and music genre (songs from Colorado's History, patriotic songs, contemporary songs).
- Sorting dances by similarities of dance styles style (square dancing as a form of country line or folk dance); identifying the country of origin of a dance.
- Analyzing/evaluating the process used when creating and performing a dance (describing decisions around transitioning from one dance pattern to another).

