

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 seventh grade dance education and offers some possible learning experiences students may engage in during this school year.

Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are ultimately 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 Middle Schools (6-8)

The dance standards in the middle school years focus on basic to intermediate level dance knowledge, as well as technique and performance skills in more specialized dance studies (ballet, folk, contemporary, choreography). In each grade, students investigate and demonstrate competence and confidence in performing various dance styles and genres, gain an awareness of fitness and the healthy body's potential for movement, refine critical thinking skills such as describing and interpreting, and creatively problem-solve through dance making.

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



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



Dance

Seventh Grade



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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 Seventh Grade

Movement, Technique, and Performance (Perform/Present)

Demonstrate correct body posture and alignment; utilize in-depth control and coordination while performing foundational dance styles (ballet, modern, jazz, tap); establish consistent performance skills and habits.

Create, Compose and Choreograph (Create)

Make intentional movement choices while creating dances; work collaboratively as well as independently; utilize and combine effective, appropriate choreographic forms/structures with the elements of dance (space, time and energy).

Historical and Cultural Context (Know/Comprehend)

Articulate the value of dance works and masterpieces from a variety of cultures; utilize movement inspired from various cultures in dance making.

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

Understand, document and describe the basics of formal dance analysis and effective critique processes.

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

- Performing warm-ups (stretching, patterned exercises, slow execution and gradually speeding up), varied floor exercises (stretches and patterned movement done on a floor without the assistance of a barre or other item), and dance combinations (combining a side step with a turn) with technical precision and appropriate posture/alignment, while demonstrating expressive performance skills.
- Creating dances with appropriate choreographic intent (idea/s that the dance is meant to convey) using the elements of dance (space, time and energy) and choreographic forms/structures (ABA patterns, narrative, collage) to construct a dance work.
- Reflecting the values of a culture in a personal dance work; understanding that dance represents different cultures and societies.
- Formally analyzing/evaluating the creative process of choreographing a dance work; rehearsing and performing dance works.