

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 Kindergarten 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



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At the end of
Kindergarten,
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 Kindergarten

Movement, Technique, and Performance (Perform/Present)

Participate in dance activities such as watching or exploring dances; perform dance steps with purpose by responding to rhythms and patterns; use movement to express what they are feeling.

Create, Compose and Choreograph (Create)

Work together or alone to create and improvise (make up) movement to music, percussion instruments, or silence.

Historical and Cultural Context (Know/Comprehend)

Perform a simple folk dance (square dance) with guidance from a teacher.

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

Express personal reactions to viewed or performed dances; recognize when/where dance is seen in daily life; describe a dance step from 2-3 different dance styles (ballet, tap).

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

- Copying movements demonstrated by others; participating in dance games.
- Moving expressively (showing emotion through gestures and/or facial expressions).
- Demonstrating physical awareness by moving freely and creatively; experimenting with a variety of dance movements (skip, dance, jump, gallop, side steps).
- Performing simple folk dances; describing dance steps from varying dance styles discussing or labeling how various dance performances make them feel (“When the dancer in the Salsa stomps his foot I feel the anger!”).
- Discussing dance in everyday life (talent shows, sports events).
- Respectfully watching/listening to recorded and live dance productions.

