

# A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



## Drama and Theatre

Extended Pathway  
(Scripted Works, Character  
Development, Technical Theatre)  
High School

### 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 high school drama and theatre arts education and offers some possible learning experiences students may engage in during this time.

### 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.

### Drama and Theatre Arts Education for High Schools (9-12)

The drama and theatre arts standards in the high school years focus on specific drama knowledge and skills and theatre elements to develop a solid foundation for specialized theatrical study (acting/character and script analysis, playwriting, technical theatre such as lights/sound/set and costume design, directing, and film studies). Through a variety of specialized theatre courses, students research, investigate and perform numerous dramatic techniques and theatrical genres such as scripted and improvisational works. They also examine character development and a variety of setting scenarios, develop ideas as playwrights, directors, designers and technicians, describe their own personal preferences for drama and theatre works, and respectfully critique themselves and the performances of others.

### 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)



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# At the end of High School, students can...



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The Colorado Academic Standards in Drama and Theatre Arts are organized by elements of the Creative Process:

Create → Perform/Present → Know/Comprehend and Critique/Evaluate/Refine

## Drama and Theatre Arts Learning Expectations for an Extended Pathway High School (Scripted Works, Character Development, Technical Theatre)

### Create (Create)

Demonstrate knowledge of more advanced vocal and movement techniques; demonstrate strong knowledge and understanding of character qualities and points of view; employ strategies to discover the goals/intentions of a particular character, ways to overcome obstacles in the plot, and tactics to achieve the goals of a particular character; analyze, research, and design for technical theatre (lights/sound/set and costume design); employ a variety of performance techniques to create dramatic meaning.

### Perform (Perform/Present)

Portray a believable character in situations from scripted works; demonstrate the ability to rehearse and exhibit more advanced vocal and movement forms and skills; lead a technical crew in a production; implement a major design element (lights/sound/set and costume design) to enhance theatrical productions; apply technical knowledge of safety procedures and practices in the use of theatre equipment, tools, and raw materials.

### Critically Respond (Know/Comprehend and Critique/Evaluate/Refine)

Use problem solving techniques to determine if another actor's or one's own performance is believable and truthful; make an informed decision about the quality of a

theatrical production; reflect and revise critical choices pertaining to dramatic texts and performances while incorporating personal decisions/preferences; document and reflect on one's own work, and identify successful approaches that could be applied in the development of future work.

## Throughout the study of Scripted Works, Character Development, or Technical Theatre, you may find students in the Extended Pathway successfully applying the elements of the creative process by...

- Taking risks and making interesting choices to enhance character development; exploring alternative choices in technology to help convey a production concept; creating a promptbook (a master copy of the script containing details for the entire production such as actor and technical cues) and researching the background of a play to enhance the overall product.
- Adjusting to other actor's decisions within a performance; assuming responsibility for the coordination of all aspects of a production by stage managing a theatrical event; writing a one-act play that includes fully developed characters, believable dialogue, and logical plot outcomes.
- Exploring how the production process impacts the final product; communicating effectively one's point of view regarding a character; discovering how theatre etiquette and ethics enhance the theatrical experience.