

Happy back to school season to all Arkansas educators!

The 2021-2022 school year begins the full, statewide implementation of the revised Arkansas Academic Standards for Fine Arts for each of our four disciplines: Dance, Music, Theatre, and Visual Art.

New Standards Overview

The revised standards are centered around the same four artistic processes and eleven anchor standards as the previous standards. They now also include student-friendly “I can” statements and optional, teacher-friendly examples of how each standard might be met within teachers’ own creative spaces. Several specialized courses have been added to our fine arts offerings so that schools and districts have increased flexibility in meeting the needs of specific student populations without the need for a course approval.

Professional Learning & Guidance

To support arts educators in the full implementation of the revised standards, the Division of Elementary of Secondary Education is providing a three-hour, asynchronous training session for each of the four fine arts disciplines. Each session explores the new standards, highlighting the changes and practical applications found in each document. A panel discussion is included in each discipline-specific video featuring current arts educators and their use of the revised standards.

Access each video session via YouTube below:

Dance - <https://youtu.be/vfqz4BjPDKU>

Music - <https://youtu.be/3-jlUXZCb5s>

Theatre - <https://youtu.be/liRlnCU0gsc>

Visual Art - <https://youtu.be/giTmBgtzkvo>

Professional development credit is awarded at district discretion. After completing the asynchronous session, participants who wish to receive professional development credit should complete the Arkansas Fine Arts Academic Standards Quiz to document participation. Following submission of the quiz, a certificate of completion will be sent to the email that was provided on the quiz form. The personalized completion certificate will include the quiz score and the date of submission. It is recommended that districts that choose to award professional development credit require a score of 80% or greater on the Arkansas Fine Arts Academic Standards Quiz.

All videos and the quiz will be posted on our Fine Arts Professional Development page for future reference.

Thank you for your commitment to Arkansas arts students and to your own ongoing professional growth!

For more information, please contact Shelle House at shelle.house@ade.arkansas.gov or (501)682-7590.