

Major Work of the Grade: Guidance for all Content Areas

The specific grade level and discipline within the arts will prioritize instructional time within certain foundations.* Not all of the content in a given grade/course is emphasized equally in the standards.

Some foundations require greater emphasis than others based on the depth of the ideas, the time that they take to master, and/or their importance to arts learning or the demands of college and career readiness. In addition, an intense focus on the most critical material at each grade allows depth in learning. That is not to say the other foundations are not important, only that the urgency towards mastery does not require the same amount of instructional time depending on the course and experience level of the young artists.

* For example, it might be common in level one beginning band and orchestra to prioritize instructional time in foundation P2 “Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for performance” and, for example, to prioritize P3 “Convey and express meaning through the performance” more heavily as the student progresses through the middle school and high school levels of instrumental music. While P1 “Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for performance” would be covered during instruction, the relative instructional time needed to achieve the standards would not be comparable.