
Fine Arts Standards

The Background:

In winter 2016, a committee was selected to revise the Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts Education, which were last reviewed in October 2010. T.C.A. § 49-6-1025 requires visual art and music instruction for grades K-8, but schools also offer courses in other disciplines.

- (a) The course of instruction in all public schools for kindergarten through grade eight (K-8) shall include art and music education to help each student foster creative thinking, spatial learning, discipline, craftsmanship and the intrinsic rewards of hard work.
- (b) Local boards of education are encouraged to fully implement the art and music curriculum adopted by the board of education through both art and music classes, as well as integration into other core academic subjects.

In addition, Tennessee graduation requirements stipulate one full credit of fine arts. Many students elect to focus concentration on sequential course offerings in multiple arts disciplines, including visual arts, dance, media arts, theatre, and vocal and instrumental music.

An educator committee composed of current K-12 arts education teachers, district-level coordinators, curriculum and instructional specialists, and higher education faculty convened in February 2016 to review survey feedback and develop the first draft of the fine arts standards during the next few months. From May 16, 2016 through June 3, 2016, the first draft of the new fine arts standards was posted to the State Board website for public feedback.

Standards revised in this process include the following subjects/courses:

- Dance, grades K-12
- Theatre, grades K-12
- Media Arts, grades K-12
- Visual Arts, grades K-12
- General Music, grades K-12
- Instrumental Music, grades 6-12
- Vocal Music, grades 6-12
- Music Theory, grades 9-12

Since first reading of the standards, the State Board staff and educator committee leads reviewed the proposed document to make minor corrections including the following:

- **Grammatical changes:** Several changes have been made throughout the document to correct missing punctuation, misspelled terminology, and capitalization of text.
- **Formatting changes:** Several changes have been made throughout the document to correct inconsistently formatted tables, bullet points, and awkward spacing. The Dance and Theatre standards now have a joint introduction.
- **Clarity:** There were a few instances where standards and introductory text have been edited to enhance clarity, including in HS2.VA.Cr1.A and the introduction of the General Music K-5 section. The

example skills listed in the General Music K-5 introduction have also been clarified, with specific standard coding now paired with each bullet point.

- **Content verbiage:** The verbiage of some standards has been reviewed, to ensure the standard text accurately conveys the committee's intended meaning. The verb "understand" has been revised to "express how" in 1.VA.Cn2.A and the standards within GM.P2 and GM.P3 of the K-5 General Music standards have been reviewed for correct third-person point of view.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.