

National Core Arts Standards (NCAS): Artistic Processes and Anchor Standards

ARTISTIC PROCESSES			
Creating Definition: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.	Performing/Presenting/Producing Definitions: Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation. Presenting: Interpreting and sharing artistic work. Producing: Realizing and presenting artistic ideas and work.	Responding Definition: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.	Connecting Definition: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.
ANCHOR STANDARDS			
Students will: 1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. 2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work. 3. Refine and complete artistic work.	Students will: 4. Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation. 5. Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation. 6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.	Students will: 7. Perceive and analyze artistic work. 8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. 9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.	Students will: 10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art. 11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

The current set of arts standards emerges from the Artistic Processes of Creating, Performing/Presenting/Producing, Responding, and Connecting. Each artistic process branches into two or three anchor standards. The performance standards, which describe student learning in each of the specific arts disciplines, align with anchor standards. Collectively, the design reflects a cohesive and aligned system that allows for commonality across the disciplines and specificity within each discipline, therefore establishing the appropriate level of breadth and depth required for national standards.

This resource was adapted from the “National Core Arts Standards: A Conceptual Framework for Arts Learning” available on the NCAS website: <https://www.nationalartsstandards.org/> and updated by the AEC team in 2023.

National Core Arts Standards: a closer look at their component parts

ANCHOR STANDARDS	ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS + ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
Identical language across artistic disciplines	Discipline specific, not grade/level specific	Discipline specific AND grade/level specific
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anchor standards describe the general knowledge and skill that teachers expect students to demonstrate throughout their education in the arts. These anchor standards are parallel across arts disciplines and grade levels and serve as the tangible educational expression of artistic literacy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NCAS have been written using enduring understandings and essential questions to help both educators and students organize the information, skills and experiences within artistic processes. These are discipline-specific, but not grade or level specific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance standards are discipline-specific, grade-by-grade articulations of student achievement in the arts PK-8 and at three proficiency levels in high school (Proficient, Accomplished, and Advanced). They translate the anchor standards into specific, measurable learning goals.