

# Pennsylvania Arts Education in Public Schools



*Arts Education, which includes visual arts, music, theater, and dance, is an essential component of the curriculum for students. It is crucial that we join together and ensure that our schools are offering adequate arts programs to the young people of our commonwealth.*

*--Governor Tom Wolf (2015)*

## How are the arts defined?

The Arts are defined as "Arts and Humanities: Study of dance, theatre, music, visual arts, language and literature, including forms of expression, historical and cultural context, critical and aesthetic judgment and production, performance or exhibition of work." (*PA Code Title 22 Chapter 4 § 4.12. Academic Standards(a)(4)*)



## Who receives public school instruction in the arts?

Elementary Education: Planned instruction aligned with academic standards in the following areas shall be provided to every student every year in the primary [up to age 8] and intermediate [up to age 11] program. Planned instruction may be provided as a separate course or other interdisciplinary activity. (*PA Code Title 22 Chapter 4 § 4.21 (7) the arts, including art, music, dance and theatre*)

Middle Level Education: Planned instruction aligned with academic standards in the following areas shall be provided to every student in the middle level program. Planned instruction may be provided as a separate course or as an instructional unit within a course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity. (*PA Code Title 22 Chapter 4 § 4.22 (8) the arts, including art, music, dance and theatre*)

High School Education: Planned instruction aligned with academic standards in the following areas shall be provided to every student in the high school program. Planned instruction may be provided as a separate course or as an instructional unit within a course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity. (*PA Code Title 22 Chapter 4 § 4.23 (6) the arts, including art, music, dance, theatre and humanities*)



## What is taught in arts courses?

Regulation: Public schools provide instruction throughout the curriculum so that students may develop knowledge and skills in the following areas: Arts and Humanities. Public education provides planned instruction to enable students to attain **academic standards** under §4.12. (*PA Code Title 22 Chapter 4 § 4.11, Purpose of Public Education (g)(6)*) Academic Standards define what a student should know and be able to do at a specified grade level. The Pennsylvania Academic Standards continue to be the foundation upon which to build a locally designed curriculum.



PA Academic Standards for Subject Area 9, Arts and Humanities ([pdesas.org](http://pdesas.org)):

- 9.1: Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Art
- 9.2: Historical and Cultural Response
- 9.3: Critical Response
- 9.4: Aesthetic Response

# Who provides arts instruction in public schools?

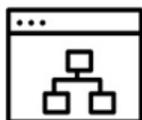
Licensure Requirements for Arts Teachers: The PA Public School Code Article XII Section 1202 and the PA Certification and Staffing Policy Guideline (CSPG) No. 1 require that teachers be certified in the area in which they teach. The School Code states "no teacher shall teach, in any public school, any branch which he has not been properly certified to teach." In order for a student to receive arts education credit, arts education must be taught by an individual who holds valid PA certification appropriate to the arts discipline being taught.



Licensure Requirements for Non-Arts Teachers (Preparation Program Curriculum): The preparation program shall be designed to enable candidates to integrate general [one of which is the arts] and academic coursework, with professional and pedagogical coursework to teach, guide and assist public school students in achieving the academic standards under Chapter 4 (relating to academic standards and assessments). (PA Code Title 22 Chapter 4 § 354.25)

# What certifications are required for arts educators?

- Dance** CSPG No. 47 HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION (K-12)  
CSPG No. 36 COMMUNICATIONS (7-12)
- Media Arts** N/A
- Music** CSPG No. 55 MUSIC EDUCATION (K-12)  
CSPG No. 69 GRADES PK-4
- Theatre** CSPG No. 42 ENGLISH (7-12)  
CSPG No. 36 COMMUNICATIONS (7-12)  
CSPG No. 69 GRADES PK-4
- Visual Arts** - CSPG No. 31 ART (K-12)  
CSPG No. 69 GRADES PK-4  
CSPG No. 70 GRADES 4-8



# What resources are available for educators?



[Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities \(2003\)](#)

## Pennsylvania Department of Education

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