



Considerations for The Arts: Dance, Media, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts

"I support providing a well-rounded education for our students: the arts are an essential part of this. The arts teach to the whole child, engage all learning styles, and lead to the development of powerful learning habits that include such essential 21st Century Skills as creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking. The arts also provide our students with keys to understanding the world around them and an array of strategies for learning, interpreting, and expressing their thoughts."

– Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Social Emotional Support:

The arts promote student engagement and well-being.

- [Integrating Social Emotional Learning \(SEL\) into arts education](#) is a researched practice that can be expanded to ensure well-being, academic progress and student engagement.
- *All* students should have access to quality arts education. [Reach out and support students and families furthest from educational justice.](#)
- A student developed survey (650+ respondents) reports that Washington students overwhelmingly consider arts education essential to their well-being.

Relevance:

The Arts are an essential part of a PreK–12 education.

- [Washington state law](#) states school districts *shall provide opportunities for every student to develop the knowledge and skills essential to know and apply the core concepts of the arts.*
- The Arts are a requirement for high school [graduation.](#)
- The Arts are part of a [well-rounded education in Federal law.](#)

Integration of Arts Standards:

Plan for curriculum and instruction thoughtfully.

- Emphasize the artistic *process* over *products* (performances, exhibits, productions).
- Consider how multiple standards can be addressed in each lesson.

Instructional Practices:

The arts create a passion for learning.

- [Research](#) supports that rigorous, standards-based learning in and through the arts provides unparalleled opportunities for growth and achievement.
- Arts instruction is suited to develop the [whole child](#) and build [21st-Century Skills](#).
- The arts promote [project-based learning](#), interdisciplinary studies, and opportunities for meaningful engagement with families and the community.

Assessment:

Monitor student growth and development regularly.

- Key on formative assessment.
- Develop student capacity for self-reflection.

Special Considerations:

The arts can be delivered safely and effectively.

- Arts classes can be delivered safely with appropriate modifications aligned with [Washington State Department of Health guidelines](#).
- Arts educators are an asset in planning and scheduling, they bring knowledge of students and facilities, which can enable the development of creative solutions.

Resources:

- [The Arts Are Essential](#)
- [The Arts: Classroom-Based Performance Assessments](#)