

Student Learning

ArtScan captures state arts education standards and instructional requirements that paint the picture for what arts learning looks like across the country. Elementary, middle and high school standards and state-level arts education assessment requirements help outline how arts learning is being measured. While many decisions around curriculum, instruction and assessment are made at the local level, providing state-level context can assist in identifying gaps in learning across states.

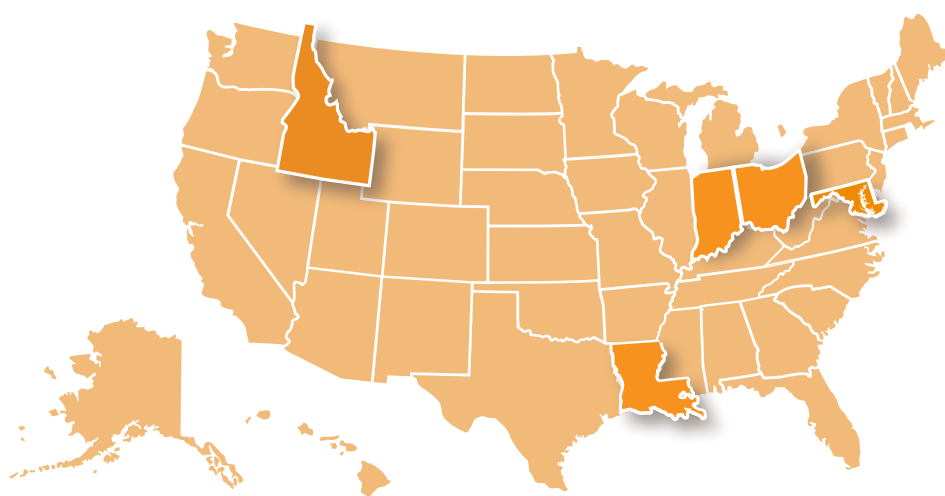
Arts Education Standards

All 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) have early childhood, elementary and secondary arts education state standards. Many state's arts standards have been directly informed by the [National Core Arts Standards](#), with states like [Connecticut](#) and [Rhode Island](#) who have adopted the standards as is.

[Pennsylvania](#) currently has the oldest arts standards for early childhood education, last updated in 2014, and the oldest arts standards for elementary and secondary education, last updated in 2002.

The National Coalition for Arts Standards (NCAS) recently announced the start of the 2025 review of the National Core Arts Standards. The review process includes input from the field to gather the latest knowledge, research and best practices to ensure students' needs are being met through a well-rounded education that involves the arts.

States With Updated Standards



IDAHO

Elementary & Secondary
Arts Education Standards

INDIANA

Early Childhood and
Elementary & Secondary
Arts Education Standards

LOUISIANA

Early Childhood Arts
Education Standards

MARYLAND

Early Childhood Arts
Education Standards

OHIO

Elementary & Secondary Arts
Education Standards

Arts Education Instructional Requirements (Elementary, Middle & High School)

ArtScan captures state-level statute (law) or code (regulation) language that requires school districts or schools to provide or offer arts instruction in one or more arts disciplines at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Most states have adopted arts education instructional requirements for elementary, middle and high school students and tailor requirements to align with state standards. Instructional requirements outline how content goals (curriculum) should be met within a state; some states have more particular language, like Louisiana, and other states have broader requirement language, like Idaho.

Although arts instructional requirements can be outlined in state policy, it is ultimately on school districts and schools to implement the established requirements. However, factors like teacher shortages, insufficient teacher training, unclear implementation guidelines and varying student needs can cause obstacles for schools to implement state arts instructional requirements.



State Highlight:
Louisiana's particular requirement language

Louisiana: (D(1)) The elementary grades shall provide a foundation in fundamentals of... cultural arts... (F.) Each public elementary school shall provide 60 minutes of instruction in the performing arts and 60 minutes of instruction in the visual arts each school week for students in kindergarten-grade eight. (28 La. Admin. Code Pt CXV, 2313)



State Highlight:
Idaho's broader requirement language

Idaho: Other Required Instruction: 01. Elementary Schools (a.) The following section outlines other information required for all elementary students... Fine Arts (art and music). (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.03.104)

Assessments

State-, district- or school-level assessments of student learning in the arts set at the state level are included in ArtScan. Few states have state-level arts assessment requirements established. Instead, they have generalized policies that require students to be assessed in the state standards, which include the arts. Authority is commonly given to state boards, departments or school districts to determine specialized assessments for arts education.

Arts education assessments can look considerably different from traditional standardized assessments or tests for subject areas like math or reading/writing. Assessing

arts learning is often a process where a student's learning can be demonstrated through different mediums like portfolios, presentations, performances, self-assessments, exhibitions and collaborative projects.

Michigan's Arts Education Instruction and Assessment (MAEIA) project published a resource that outlines high quality and appropriate recommendations for educators to assess K-12 learning in dance, music, theater and visual arts. These recommendations are based on the Michigan Merit Curriculum and align with national standards.