

Licensure

ArtScan captures state statutes and/or administrative codes that outline initial licensure or certification requirements for both arts and non-arts teachers. Endorsement requirements for specific arts disciplines are also captured in ArtScan. Certification refers to the basic credentials required to teach that include an arts related requirement. While endorsements include specialized qualifications that are art-specific and can be added to a teacher's certification. Licensure requirements for non-arts and arts teachers **differ** state to state including, the required education level to teach, required exams and required preparation programs.

Keep in mind that licensure requirements do not always exist within state statute and code language. In some cases, authority is given to agencies like departments of education, boards of education or licensing boards to develop the state licensure requirements for teachers. This is why a state may not see their licensure requirements reflected in ArtScan. There are also instances where states outline some requirements for licensure in state statute or code language but permit a state agency to elaborate or expand the state determined requirements.

There are also instances where state course codes reflect the available licensure areas but do not reflect the state established endorsements in specific art disciplines. When this occurs, these endorsed art subjects may fall under more commonly identified licensure subjects like English/language arts in a state's course code mapping. For example, there are licensure requirements available for music and visual arts educators in Colorado, as well as endorsements for theater and dance. The state's course codes do not include theater and dance, which means a theater educator could just be licensed in English or a dance educator may just be licensed in music.

Praxis Exam

Most states require teacher candidates to pass one or more praxis exams administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The goal of these exams is to assess a candidate's academic knowledge and skills. Listed below are the different types of praxis exams:

- Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educator Tests
- Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subject Tests
- Praxis Elementary Education: Content Knowledge for Teaching (CTK) Assessment
- Praxis Subject Tests: Over 120 Subject-Specific Tests

States like **California** and **Florida** have developed their own standardized exams for teacher certification. Some states also have exams related to specific arts disciplines like **dance certification**. Check your **state's requirements** to get a full picture of certification in your area.

Arts Requirements for Non-Arts Teacher Licensure

Early childhood and elementary teachers are required to teach multiple subjects as students usually remain in one classroom during their primary education years. For this reason, arts requirements for non-arts teacher licensure typically cover early learning and elementary teacher licensure requirements that include an arts education element. It is typical that certifications to teach early learning and/or elementary require a bachelor's degree with some level of arts content instruction, sometimes specified by arts disciplines, semester hours or grade level one wishes to teach.

Policy Language Comparison

Generalized Policy Language:

Illinois' Standards for Endorsements in Elementary Education- "The competent elementary teacher understands the educational, communicative, and aesthetic value of dance, drama, music, and visual art and the role fine arts play in reflecting history and culture and promotes all students' ability to express themselves creatively." [Code includes Knowledge and Performance Indicators.] (Ill. Admin. Code tit. 23 § 26.370)

Specific Policy Language:

Virginia Licensure Regulations Governing Early/primary Education Endorsements- "Candidates for the early/primary education PreK-3 endorsement must have earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university in the liberal arts or sciences, or equivalent, and completed coursework that covers the early/primary education PreK-3 competencies and meets the following semester-hour requirements: ...(e.) Arts: 3 semester hours." (8 Va. Admin. Code 20-23-150)



State Highlight: Pennsylvania's Arts Teacher Certification

Information for [Pennsylvania's](#) arts teacher certifications is not captured in ArtScan because [Pennsylvania's State Department of Education](#) is responsible for setting requirements for certification. The state offers full certification in pre-K through 12th grade general art education, dance education and music education with the option to add a theater education pre-K through 12th grade endorsement.

Licensure Requirements for Arts Teachers

For states whose licensure requirements for arts teachers are not outlined in state statute or code language, ArtScan now captures and links to the governing authority who is responsible for developing requirements. Similar to licensure requirements for non-arts teachers, some states have broad policies, while others have more comprehensive state policies around licensure for arts teachers. Many states offer full certification in single arts disciplines, e.g., dance or visual arts. Other states offer a general teaching certification and then require endorsements to teach specific arts disciplines. States like [Alabama](#), [Maine](#) and [Iowa](#) outline the required curriculum and/or semester hours required to be completed by an individual seeking an endorsement to teach specified pre-K through 12th grade arts disciplines, like dance, theater, music and visual arts, in state statute or code language.

There are also instances where state course codes do not match available licensure and endorsement areas. For example, multiple states have course codes for dance and theater, but no licensure or endorsement options for those content areas. Conversely, some states, e.g. Colorado, have licensure or endorsement options for dance and theater, but no course codes for those content areas. As a result, dance and theatre teachers may not be teaching dance and theatre courses.

Alternative Pathways & Reciprocity

To address staffing challenges related to teacher shortages, many states have implemented or expanded [alternative pathways](#) to teacher licensure. Alternative pathways provide flexible options for prospective teachers who do not possess traditional certifications to obtain the skills and standards necessary to teach. For example, Maryland's teaching standards board recently approved their Fine Arts Transcript Analysis Pathway that's available to individuals with demonstrated content expertise seeking licensure art, music, dance or theater. There has also been heightened conversation around arts teachers exploring alternative career and technical education ([CTE pathways](#)) as arts standards and requirements are in question across states.

Teacher license reciprocity allows an educator who holds a valid license in one jurisdiction to obtain a license in another jurisdiction. The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) [Interstate Agreement](#) allows an individual to legally transfer certification and teach in another state that has also signed the interstate agreement. There may be stipulations and additional requirements for an educator to fully start teaching in the receiving state. To learn more about reciprocity, the Education Commission of the States released a comprehensive [policy resource](#) about teacher license reciprocity.