

# NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS



## **N2KN: Need to Know Now**

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Cultural Inclusion

## IN WHAT WAYS DO THE NATIONAL ARTS STANDARDS SUPPORT CULTURAL INCLUSIVE INSTRUCTION?

Every child in America deserves the right to receive a high quality arts education.

*Toward the achievement of social justice and the work of shaping human potential, the value of each life and every creative act indispensably enriches us all.*

Dr. James Rowling, Jr., Professor of Arts Education  
Syracuse University  
President Elect, NAEA

*The arts have always been considered to be an essential component of all great societies. In order for the arts to contribute to understanding of the human condition, students must be given guaranteed access to the highest quality of art education possible. This education will serve students and all citizens in using their guaranteed right of freedom of speech in the pursuit of social justice while improving the quality of life each of us enjoy as Americans.*

Dr. F. Robert Sabol, Professor of Visual & Performing Arts  
Purdue University  
Past President, NAEA

### Why It Matters to You

- Arts education nurtures the creation of a welcoming learning environment where students can express themselves in a safe and positive way.
- Arts education is part of a well-rounded education for all students as understood and supported by federal and state policymakers.
- Arts education supports the social and emotional well-being of students, whether through remote learning or in person.

### Things to Consider

- The arts have no borders; they relate to all races, sexual identities, times and places as stated in the National Core Arts Standards artistic processes  
<https://nationalartsstandards.org/sites/default/files/NCCAS%20N2KN%20Vol%20I%20-%20Issue%202%20-%206-12-18.pdf>.
- The arts are languages of communication- to connect and interconnect people of all backgrounds and social circumstances.
- The arts are an expression of creative freedom that develop understanding of self awareness, self efficiency, self management, perseverance, social awareness and relationship skills.
- The arts develop awareness of humanity's historical past as well as visions for the 21st century.
- The arts inform our common qualities as humans.

- Education, especially arts education, is a necessary civil right to promote creative opportunities for participatory democracy.

## Reflection Questions

- In what ways are artists responding to the need for social justice?
- In what ways do the arts promote healing in individuals and in communities?
- In what ways do the arts affirm individual identity?
- How do the arts promote creative freedom and expression as a personal statement?
- In what ways do the arts provide perspective on historical and contemporary events?
- How might the arts impact and facilitate positive change?

## Resources for Attending to Access and Equity

*The central purposes of education standards are to identify the learning that we want for all of our students and to drive improvement in the system that delivers that learning.* Every student should have access to instruction in all art forms, which should be represented within the curricula of every school across the nation, and students should develop competence in all four Artistic Processes through instruction in each art form. [Opportunity to Learn standards](#) help encourage equitable delivery of arts education by outlining the resources necessary for students to succeed, illustrating a continuum of programming, allowing for program review, and articulating the basis for a comprehensive arts education.

In addition, the National Core Arts Standards website provides guidance on attending to the instructional needs of all learners with resources for teaching [exceptional children](#). Additional resources may be found on the The National Association for Gifted Children website; which offers a [Position Statement](#) on Arts Education for Gifted and Talented Students.

## Recommended Actions You Can Take

- Consider changes to pedagogical practices to highlight cultural inclusivity.
- Access **Arts Education is Essential** <https://sites.google.com/seadae.org/seadae/home/news/unified-statement> unified statement to advocate for the inclusion of the arts in the school curriculum with faculty, administrators, parents, policy and decision makers and legislators.
- Recognize that the arts are connected to student's lives and can be a means of expression, hope, solace and healing.
- Strive to be an informed and active citizen.

Education is a social process; education is growth; education is not a preparation for life but is life itself.

John Dewey

## Links

- American Theatre Association
- Arts Education Partnership  
<https://www.aep-arts.org/ewq-resources/>
- Educational Theatre Association
- National Art Education Association  
<https://www.arteducators.org/advocacy-policy/black-lives-matter>
- National Association for Music Education  
<https://nafme.org/what-we-believe-black-lives-matter>
- National Dance Education Organization  
[https://www.ndeo.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=893257&module\\_id=402659](https://www.ndeo.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=893257&module_id=402659)
- State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education  
<https://sites.google.com/seadae.org/seadae/home/news/equity-position-statement>
- Young Audiences- <https://www.youngaudiences.org/whyarts/tags/social-justice>
- *Arts Education is Essential*  
<https://sites.google.com/seadae.org/seadae/home/news/unified-statement>
- The State of Racial Diversity in the Educator Workforce  
<https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/highered/racial-diversity/state-racial-diversity-workforce.pdf>
- Teaching Tolerance Teaching Strategies  
<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/teaching-strategies>
- American Federation of Teachers- Tools for Teachers - Creating a Safe and Inclusive Classroom  
[www.aft.org/ae/winter2016-2017/tools](http://www.aft.org/ae/winter2016-2017/tools)
- Art Education: A Civil Right Denied- Dr. F. Robert Sabol  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00043125.2017.1317546>
- Black Lives Matter- Anti-Racist Agenda- Dr. James Rowling Jr.  
<https://www.arteducators.org/advocacy-policy/articles/692-black-lives-matter>



National Coalition for **CORE ARTS** Standards