



In February 2025, the National Coalition for Arts Standards (NCAS) [notified the field](#) of its intent to review national standards in dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts. The 2025 National Arts Standards survey, conducted from February 18 to May 16, gathered nationwide feedback to determine whether the 2014 standards should be edited, revised, or discarded. Distributed broadly through NCAS member organizations, the survey received 3,490 responses and generated 5,632 comments across all arts disciplines and U.S. states and territories. Respondents rated their usage of, satisfaction with, and the impact of the standards on learning and teaching, as well as specific components such as the Conceptual Framework, Anchor Standards, and Artistic Processes.

## **Survey Results**

Overall, the field expressed strong appreciation for the standards' structure, flexibility, and value for advocacy and reflective practice, while also calling for clearer articulation, reduced vagueness, and stronger support through professional development, exemplars, and supplemental materials. Common recommendations included better grade-band alignment, greater emphasis on discipline-specific skills, culture, global connections, careers, and updated guidance on technology and artificial intelligence. Collectively, the findings show a field that values the standards and signals a desire for refinement rather than a re-write.

Infographic: [NCAS Public Input Survey: Selected Findings](#)

Report: [NCAS Public Input Survey: A Report on Selected Preliminary Findings](#)

## **Goals of the NCAS Review**

Based on survey findings, NCAS has established five main goals for the review of these national standards with an overarching vision to address the evolving needs of the nation's students and ensure that the arts remain central to a well-rounded education.

The five goals of the review of National Arts Standards are:

- **Arts Learning for All**  
Design standard with universal accessibility in mind so that students from all cultural backgrounds and all types of learners can benefit.
- **Concise Language**  
Use clear, straightforward language so the standards are accessible, practical, and easy for educators to implement.
- **Student Voice & Choice**  
Position students as active creators and decision-makers to foster motivation, agency, and deep artistic learning.
- **Technology & Artificial Intelligence (AI)**  
Update the standards to reflect the growing role of digital tools and AI, integrating technical and artistic literacy.
- **Postsecondary Readiness**  
Prepare students for college and careers by building artistic foundations and transferable skills such as creativity, collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and resilience.

### **Project Manager Applications Available**

In the coming months, NCAS will be recruiting a project manager to oversee the review process. The Project Manager will serve as the central coordinator for the National Arts Standards Review across all five arts disciplines—Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts. This leadership position will manage the complex, multi-year workflow, coordinating deadlines, communication, and documentation while ensuring the standards revision adheres to NCAS-approved processes. The role requires exceptional organizational skills and the ability to synchronize efforts among the Discipline Leads, NCAS Council, and review committees. A job description can be found within [the application form](#).

### **Review Committee Interest Form**

As the work progresses, educators are invited to complete [an interest form](#) to receive updates about upcoming opportunities to serve on teacher review committees. Submitting the form does not indicate a commitment; it simply ensures that you will

receive timely information about the committee structure, expectations, and timelines as they become available.

Infographic: [Timeline of Standards Review Process \(March 2026\)](#)

NCAS is grateful for the field's continued engagement and looks forward to working collaboratively with educators and stakeholders to ensure the National Arts Standards remain relevant, equitable, and responsive to the needs of today's learners.

Questions regarding the review and revision of National Arts Standards can be directed to [contact@nationalartsstandards.org](mailto:contact@nationalartsstandards.org).

