1. The **Artistic Disciplines** are Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts.

2. The **Artistic Processes** are the cognitive and physical actions by which arts learning and making are realized. Inspired by the 1997 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Arts Education Assessment Framework, the National Core Arts Standards are based on the artistic processes of Creating; Performing/Producing/Presenting; Responding; and Connecting. Each of the arts disciplines incorporates these processes in some manner. These processes define and organize the link between the art and the learner.

3. **Anchor standards** describe the general knowledge and skill that teachers expect students to demonstrate throughout their education in the arts. These anchor standards are parallel across arts disciplines and grade levels and serve as the tangible educational expression of artistic literacy.

4. **Process components** are the actions artists carry out as they complete each artistic process. Students' ability to carry out these operational verbs empowers them to work through the artistic process independently. The process components played a key role in generating enduring understandings and performance standards, and serve as the action verbs that collectively build toward the artistic processes. Process components and their definitions are presented among supplemental resources. In the final presentation of standards individual arts disciplines have placed differing levels of emphasis on the process components. Music standards, in particular, place process components in a central role. Visual arts standards, on the other hand, place greater emphasis on enduring understandings and essential questions.

5. The **grade levels** are divided into these categories – K for Kindergarten and Pre-K, grades 1-8 and high school is organized by these ratings: proficient, accomplished and advanced.