EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES
Your education policy team.

Response to information request

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Daizha Brown
dbrown@ecs.org

Your Question:

1. What is the status of academic standards and teacher certification for dance in each state?
2. What are licensure assessment requirements to become a dance educator in states where dance certification exists?

Our Response:

AEP staff members used information from state education agency websites to update an existing NDEO spreadsheet focused on dance teacher certification and to add information about dance standards. The updated table begins on page 2. AEP staff members did not include information about dance certification related to career and technical education (CTE), as these programs tend to be available only at the high school level and are usually not aligned to non-CTE state academic standards. An analysis of the information found the following:

1. **Every state and the District of Columbia have academic standards for dance.**
    a. Forty-one of 51 states (80%) have standards aligned to the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS). Five of those states — **Connecticut**, **Delaware**, **Hawaii**, **New Mexico** and **Rhode Island** — adopted the standards without changes.
    b. **Pennsylvania's** arts standards were adopted in 2002; the state department of education began steps to update them in 2025. Five states — **Alabama**, **Idaho**, **Kentucky**, **North Carolina** and **Ohio**— adopted new arts standards in 2024. **West Virginia** has the most recently updated standards, adopted in 2025.
    c. Of the 46 states that have adopted new standards since the 2014 release of the National Core Arts Standards, **Virginia** is the single state that did not adopt or adapt the NCAS.

2. **37 states certify educators in dance.**
    a. Twenty-five offer full certification, meaning certification is equal to other core content areas.
    b. Dance is available as an add-on endorsement to an existing certification in 11 states.
    c. In **Kentucky**, dance is available as a restricted base certificate.

3. **Of the 37 states with dance certification, 15 require a content-specific assessment to obtain licensure.**
    a. Nine of those states — **Arizona**, **California**, **Massachusetts**, **Minnesota**, **New York**, **Ohio**, **Oklahoma,** **Pennsylvania** and **Washington** — have state-level dance tests. Pearson provides many of these tests.
    b. Three of the states — **Alabama**, **Illinois, and Tennessee** require the **edTPA Performing Arts assessment**.
    c. **Texas** requires either a state-level test or the edTPA Performing Arts assessment.
    d. **New York** requires both a state-level test and the edTPA Performing Arts assessment.

In states where dance licensure is unavailable, individuals may seek certification through physical education or performing arts pathways. For example, candidates in North Dakota can pursue teaching different levels of dance through a Health & Physical Education licensure pathway.

	Standards			Licensure			
State	**Link to standards**	**Aligned to NCAS?**	**Date of most recent update**	**Dance certification in state?**	**Type of certification**	**Certification assessment requirements – dance**	**Other information**
Alabama	Arts Education Standards	Yes	2024	Yes	Full	edTPA Performing Arts	
Alaska	Alaska Arts Standards	Yes	2016	No			
Arizona	Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts	Yes	2015	Yes	Full	Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment Subject Knowledge: Dance	
Arkansas	Arkansas Fine Arts Academic Standards	Yes	2020	No			ARDOE employee confirmed only technical permit through CTE exists for now.
California	California Arts Standards for Public Schools	Yes	2019	Yes	Full	CSET: Dance	
Colorado	Colorado Arts Standards	No	2022	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	None	
Connecticut	Connecticut Arts and Standards (Adopted NCAS)	Yes	2017	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	None	
Delaware	Delaware Arts Standards (Adopted NCAS)	Yes	2016	Yes	Full	None	
District of Columbia	District of Columbia Arts Education	No	2016	Yes	Full	Principal of Learning & Teaching (PLT)	

	Standards						
Florida	Florida State Standards	No	2010	Yes	Full	None	
Georgia	Fine Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence	Yes	2022	Yes	Full	None	
Hawaii	Hawaii Subject Matter Standards- Fine Arts (Adopted NCAS)	Yes	2015	Yes	Full	None	
Idaho	Idaho Arts and Humanities Standards	No	2024	No			
Illinois	Illinois Arts Learning Standards	Yes	2016	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	edTPA Performing Arts	
Indiana	Indiana Academic Standards- Fine Arts	Yes	2017	No			
Iowa	Iowa Fine Arts Standards	Yes	2017	No			
Kansas	Kansas Fine Arts Standards	Yes	2017	No			
Kentucky	Kentucky Academic Standards for Visual and Performing Arts	Yes	2024	Yes	Restricted Base Certificate	Principal of Learning & Teaching (PLT)	

Louisiana	Louisiana Arts Content Standards	No	2004	Yes	Full	None	
Maine	Standards & Instruction- Visual & Performing Arts	Yes	2021	Yes	Full	None	
Maryland	Maryland State Fine Arts Standards	Yes	2016	Yes	Full	None	
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework	Yes	2019	Yes	Full	Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure: Dance	
Michigan	Michigan Merit Curriculum	No	2011	No			Dance endorsement area phased out in January 2018
Minnesota	Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Arts Education	Yes	2018	Yes	Full	Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examination: Dance	
Mississippi	Mississippi College-and Career-Readiness Arts Learning Standards	Yes	2017	No			
Missouri	Missouri Arts Learning Standards	Yes	2019	Yes	Full	None	
Montana	Montana Content Standards for the Arts	Yes	2016	No			

Nebraska	Nebraska Arts Education Standards	Yes	2014	No			
Nevada	Nevada Academic Content Standards Nevada Fine Arts Standards	Yes	2017	Yes	Special Endorsement: Dance	None	
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Arts Model Competencies	Yes	2015	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	None	
New Jersey	New Jersey Student Learning Standards-Visual and Performing Arts	Yes	2020	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	None	
New Mexico	New Mexico Core Arts Standards (Adopted NCAS)	Yes	2018	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	None	
New York	New York State Arts Standards	Yes	2017	Yes	Full	New York State Teacher Certification Exam: Dance Content Specialty Test, edTPA Performing Arts	
North Carolina	North Carolina Standard Course of Study- Fine Arts	Yes	2024	Yes	Full	None	
North Dakota	North Dakota Fine Arts Content	Yes	2019	No			

	Standards						
Ohio	Ohio Fine Arts Standards	Yes	2024	Yes	Full	Ohio Assessments for Educators: Dance	
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Academic Standards for Fine Arts	Yes	2023	Yes	Full	Certification Examinations for Oklahoma Educators: Dance	
Oregon	Oregon Arts Standards	Yes	2015	No			
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities	No	2002	Yes	Full	National Evaluation Series: Dance	
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Fine Arts Standards (Adopted NCAS)	Yes	2017	Yes	Full	None	
South Carolina	South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency	Yes	2017	Yes	Full	None	
South Dakota	South Dakota Fine Arts Standards	Yes	2022	No			
Tennessee	Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts	Yes	2018	Yes	Full	edTPA Performing Arts	

Texas	Fine Arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills	No	2013	Yes	Full	Texas Examinations of Educator Standards: Dance 6-12 AND either Texas Examinations of Educator Standards: Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities or edTPA K-12 Performing Arts	Dance standards are only available for middle and high school levels.
Utah	Utah Core Fine Arts Standards	Yes	2016	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	None	
Vermont	Vermont Arts Learning Targets	Yes	2019	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	None	
Virginia	Virginia Fine Arts Learning Standards	No	2020	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	None	
Washington	Washington State Arts Learning Standards	Yes	2017	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	Washington Educator Skills Test - Endorsements: Dance	K-8 dance certified as generalist, 9-12 certified in dance
West Virginia	West Virginia College and Career-Readiness Standards for the Arts	Yes	2025	Yes	Full	None	
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Standards for Dance	Yes	2019	Yes	Full	None	
Wyoming	Wyoming Fine and Performing Arts Standards	Yes	2023	No			