

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 spreadsheet begins on page 2. AEP staff members did not include information about dance certification related to career and technical education, as these programs tend to be available only at the high school level and are usually not aligned to 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. Thirty-six of 51 states have standards aligned to the National Core Arts Standards. Four of those states — **Connecticut, Delaware, New Mexico and Rhode Island** — adopted the standards without changes.
- b. **Pennsylvania's** arts standards were adopted in 2002, and the state board of education has not released plans to update them. Five states — **Arkansas, Colorado, New Jersey, Oklahoma and Virginia**— most recently adopted arts standards in 2020. **Ohio** has draft standards that are slated for adoption in 2021.
- c. Of the 41 states that have adopted new standards since the 2014 release of the National Core Arts Standards, five of them — **Colorado, District of Columbia, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia** — did not adopt or adapt the NCAS.

2. 36 states certify educators in dance.

- a. Thirty-two of these states offer full certification as an option, meaning certification is equal to other core content areas.
- b. In **Colorado** and **Utah**, dance is available as an add-on endorsement to an existing certification.
- c. In **Kentucky**, dance is available as a restricted base certificate.

3. Of the 36 states with dance certification, 13 require a content-specific assessment to obtain licensure.

- a. Six of those states — **Arizona, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Oklahoma and Washington** — have state-level dance tests. Pearson provides many of these tests.
- b. Four of the states — **Alabama, Illinois, New Jersey 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.

State	Standards			Licensure			Other information
	Link to standards	Aligned to NCAS	Date of most recent update	Dance certification in state	Type of certification	Certification assessment requirements – dance	
Alabama	Arts Education Courses of Study	Yes	2017	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			Listed in state licensure areas chart, but no current licensure. ARDOE employee confirmed only technical permit through CTE exists for now.
California	California Arts Standards for Public Schools	Yes	2019	No			
Colorado	Colorado Academic Standards	No	2020	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	None	
Connecticut	Adopted National Core Arts Standards	Yes	2016	Yes	Full	None	
Delaware	Adopted National Core Arts Standards	Yes	2016	Yes	Full	None	
District of Columbia	DCPS Arts Framework	No	2016	Yes	Full	None	

State	Standards			Licensure			Other information
	Link to standards	Aligned to NCAS	Date of most recent update	Dance certification in state	Type of certification	Certification assessment requirements – dance	
Florida	Next Generation Sunshine State Standards	No	2010	Yes	Full	None	
Georgia	Fine Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence	Yes	2018	Yes	Full	None	
Hawaii	Hawaii Content and Performance Standards	No	2005	No			
Idaho	Idaho Content Standards	Yes	2015	No			
Illinois	Illinois Arts Learning Standards	Yes	2016	Yes	Full	edTPA Performing Arts	
Indiana	Indiana Dance Standards	Yes	2017	No			
Iowa	Iowa Fine Arts Standards	Yes	2017	No			
Kansas	Kansas Dance and Creative Movement Standards	Yes	2017	No			
Kentucky	Kentucky Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts	Yes	2015	Yes	Restricted base certificate	None	
Louisiana	K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for the Arts	No	2004	Yes	Full	None	
Maine	Maine Learning Results	No	2007	Yes	Full	None	

State	Standards			Licensure			Other information
	Link to standards	Aligned to NCAS	Date of most recent update	Dance certification in state	Type of certification	Certification assessment requirements – dance	
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 for Dance	Yes	2017	Yes	Full	None	
Missouri	Missouri Arts Learning Standards	Yes	2019	Yes	Full	None	
Montana	Montana Content Standards for the Arts	Yes	2016	No			
Nebraska	Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Fine Arts	No	2014	No			
Nevada	Nevada Academic Content Standards for Fine Arts	Yes	2017	No			

State	Standards			Licensure			Other information
	Link to standards	Aligned to NCAS	Date of most recent update	Dance certification in state	Type of certification	Certification assessment requirements – dance	
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Arts Model Competencies	Yes	2015	Yes	Full	None	
New Jersey	New Jersey Student Learning Standards	Yes	2020	Yes	Full	edTPA Performing Arts	
New Mexico	Adopted National Core Arts Standards	Yes	2018	Yes	Full	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 Essential Standards	No	2016	Yes	Full	None	
North Dakota	North Dakota Dance Content Standards	Yes	2019	No			
Ohio	Ohio Dance Standards	No	2012	Yes	Full	Ohio Assessments for Educators: Dance	Updated standards in draft form (2021)
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Academic Standards for Fine Arts	Yes	2020	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	Direct path certification was adopted in February 2023	

State	Standards			Licensure			Other information
	Link to standards	Aligned to NCAS	Date of most recent update	Dance certification in state	Type of certification	Certification assessment requirements – dance	
Rhode Island	Adopted National Core Arts Standards	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	2015	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 only at middle school and high school levels
Utah	Utah Core Arts Standards Fine Arts	Yes	2016	Yes	Endorsement to existing licensure	None	
Vermont	Vermont Arts Learning Targets	Yes	2019	Yes	Full	None	Dance learning targets only at high school level

State	Standards			Licensure			Other information
	Link to standards	Aligned to NCAS	Date of most recent update	Dance certification in state	Type of certification	Certification assessment requirements – dance	
Virginia	Virginia Standards of Learning Documents for Fine Arts	No	2020	Yes	Full	None	
Washington	Washington State K-12 Arts Learning Standards	Yes	2017	Yes	Full	Washington Educator Skills Test - Endorsements: Dance	K-8 dance certified as generalist, 9-12 certified in dance
West Virginia	West Virginia Standards for Arts Education	No	2018	Yes	Full	None	Dance standards only at high school level
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Standards for Dance	Yes	2019	Yes	Full	None	
Wyoming	Wyoming Fine and Performing Arts Standards	No	2013	No			