Visual and Performing Arts Education eUpdate

Colorado Academic Standards | All Students All Standards **September/October 2026**



The Addams Family, Music by Andrew Lippa, Book by Marshall Brickman & Rick Elice, High School Students from across the Denver metro area, Musical Theatre, Arvada Center Teen Intensive.

NEWS

Important information from CDE Standards and Instructional Support

2026-2027 Arts Think Tank Meetings

Wednesday, September 23, 12:30-2 pm,12:30-2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 10, 12:30-2 pm, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

The fall Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Arts Think Tank meeting will take place this month on September 23rd, virtually. Additionally, mark your calendars for the spring meeting on February 10th. If you are a district leader or community arts leader and are interested in joining the conversation, email Carla at Aguilar_C@cde.state.co.us to receive the calendar invite and meeting link.

MORE NEWS

Creative Conversations

The CDE Arts team is excited to continue to support arts educators by offering arts-specific professional development. Each session is free, virtual, and participants are eligible to earn credit for license renewal upon completion. Registration is open for all sessions.

Learn more and register on our **CDE Arts Webpage**.

REGISTER TODAY!

Trauma-Responsive Teaching in the Arts

Monday, September 21, 2026, 4:30 to 6:00 PM, Virtual, via Zoom.

This session is an extension of last school year's Trauma-Informed Practices Creative Conversation, revisiting foundational practices while exploring the role of the "warm demander" and developing a mentor mindset to support student resiliency.

**License renewal hours for this session count toward the Special Education and Behavioral Health requirement.*

Intentional Classroom Culture in the Arts

Wednesday, November 18, 2026, *4:30 to 6:00 PM, Virtual, via Zoom.*

Explore how intentional classroom structures and asset-based practices can create a supportive environment where students feel encouraged to take risks, build resiliency, and thrive as well-rounded artists and learners.

AI in the Visual and Performing Arts Classroom

Wednesday, February 17, 2027, 4:30 to 6:00 PM, Virtual, via Zoom.

Arts educators across the state explore the impact of A.I. in arts classrooms and how to use the technology as an enhancement, not a replacement for human innovation.

The Inclusive Arts Classroom: Special Education Law and Universal Design for Learning

Thursday, April 15, 2027, 4:30 to 6:00 PM, Virtual, via Zoom.

This professional development session equips arts educators with key special education legal requirements and practical Universal Design for Learning (UDL) strategies to create inclusive, accessible creative environments for all learners.

**License renewal hours for this session count toward the Special Education and Behavioral Health requirement.*

MORE NEWS

Colorado's Visual and Performing Arts

Colorado Standards Revision Updates

Request for Public Feedback

Your Opinion Matters!

This winter, the State Board of Education will review public feedback to help determine if the Colorado Academic Standards in the Arts will undergo revisions. The CDE Arts team is seeking public feedback on the standards in Music, Dance, Drama/Theatre and Visual Arts to aid the State Board in making this decision.

Public Feedback Survey

Complete the survey to give feedback on the standards. Questions are based around the rigor, coherence, depth, breadth and relevance of the arts standards. You can find more information and the survey on the CDE website or **follwing this survey link**.

Focus Groups

Monday, October 5th, 2026, 6:00-7:00 pm

Wednesday, October 14th, 2026, 6:00-7:00 pm

Focus Group Sessions, Virtual, via Zoom.

If you would like to provide feedback within a conversation setting, please attend one of our virtual focus group sessions. We will be generating discussion around the survey questions that will foster open dialogue. If you would like to attend a focus group session, **register using this form**.

Student Success Guides

CDE's guides for Supporting Student Success aim to support a strong partnership between caregivers, students and educators. These guides offer ideas, questions and tips to help families support student learning at home.

See the guides for each grade-band on this **CDE webpage.**

Events for EDUCATORS

CTEC Registration is still open!

HAPPENING SOON

Registration closes Friday, September 11, 2026

Join theatre educators from across the state at the annual Colorado Thespians Educator Conference (CTEC) September 17-18, 2026.

There will be free on-site parking for registered conference attendees. One and two-day registrations and room block discounts are available.

To register and reserve your overnight accommodations, visit this **Colorado Thespians webpage.**

Shakespeare and Violence Prevention Program

Bring this interactive session combining theatre and anti-bullying strategies to your school. The Shakespeare & Violence Prevention program is a collaboration between the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, and the CU Boulder Theatre Department.

To learn more about partnership opportunities with CU Boulder and the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, visit the **Colorado Shakespeare Festival website**.

Educator Night at the Denver Art Museum

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Educator night is all about bringing joy and appreciation to our educators! Educators will receive information about our school and community offerings, get to create artwork, enjoy live music and attend pop-up tours with our school docents. This event is free with registration for school educators and their families. We encourage all educators, counselors, social workers, community liaisons and administrators to come see what art can offer.

Learn more and register at this **Denver Art Museum Webpage**.

Events for EDUCATORS

Art Club and Pop-Up Studio

the art of education

The Art of Education (AOE) Community hosts free monthly live events for art educators to connect, create, and share ideas together. Art Club is a structured monthly gathering featuring a guest or theme-based show-and-tell with hands-on artmaking. Pop-Up Studio is a casual, informal Zoom meetup where art teachers can chat and work on their own art alongside others.

Upcoming events in the AOE Community:

September

Art Club: Thursday, September 10, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Pop-Up Studio: Wednesday, September 16, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

October

Art Club: Thursday, October 8, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Pop-Up Studio: Wednesday, October 21, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

November

Art Club: Thursday, November 5, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Pop-Up Studio: Wednesday, November 18, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Event details and RSVP information can be found in **The Art of Education Community website.**

Events for STUDENTS

George Masa Youth Conservation Photography Prize

Contest opens Monday, September 14, 2026

The George Masa Foundation will launch the third annual George Masa Youth Conservation Photography Prize on September 14, inviting middle and high school students from across the United States to share how they see the natural world through photography.

Last year, 406 middle and high school students from 27 states participated in the competition.

This year, students will compete in five photography categories:

Birds · Wildlife · Plants & Fungi · Landscape · Water

Winners will receive cash prizes, and selected photographs will be professionally printed and exhibited at The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, North Carolina.

Complete entry information and contest rules will be available when the competition launches on the **George Masa Website**.

Arvada Center Student Matinees

The Arvada Center is offering engaging, curriculum-connected theatre experiences this fall! Student matinees provide high school and middle school students with opportunities to experience live theatre as well as a talk back with the cast, while exploring artistic storytelling, history, and literature!

For more information and to reserve student tickets, visit the **Theatre for Students webpage.**

Misery (adapted from the novel by Stephen King)

Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 10:30 am for High School students

Barefoot in the Park by Neil Simon

Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 10:30 am for Middle & High School students

Julius Caesar (abridged, 45-minute production presented in partnership with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival) This unique opportunity invites students to explore Shakespeare's examination of leadership, power, rhetoric and civic engagement on election day!

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 10:30 am

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at 10:30 am for upper elementary–high school students.

Events for STUDENTS

Poetry Out Loud National Program

Registration now open!

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages young performers in Colorado to bring the words of great poets to life through memorization, recitation and competitive performance. The program starts in the school or at the local level. Winners from school and local competitions then advance to state competition and ultimately to the national finals in late April. Poetry Out Loud grants $50,000 in awards and school stipends at the National Finals, including a $20,000 prize for the Poetry Out Loud National Champion.

Learn more on the **Poetry Out Loud website.**

Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum Student Matinees

December 9 - 10, 2026

Ideal for elementary school students, Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum has been a Denver family tradition for 35 years and is a great field trip opportunity. Experience an incredible blend of dance, music, costumes and spoken word that lifts the spirit and fills the heart! Guided by the Three Angels of the Rainbow, Granny visits Africa, the Americas, Mexico, Asia, and the Caribbean to celebrate the joy of Holiday Times through a celebration of diversity and oneness.

An adapted 45-minute student matinee, supplemented with a Study Guide, will be held **December 9th & 10th @ 10:00am & 11:30am** both days.

Contact Mimi Patel Tameron, Education Manager, at mimi@cleoparkerdance.org for more information on booking this field trip.

Learn more about this program and community performances on the **Cleo Parker Dance website.**

Events for STUDENTS

CSU's Colorado Performing Arts College Nights

Colorado State University (CSU) invites you to CSU's Colorado Performing Arts College Nights attend a College Night in your area! The Colorado Performing Arts College Nights are a collaboration between arts admissions professionals from across the state. Our goal is to equip you with the practical knowledge you'll need to pursue your dreams. Events are free!

St. Vrain Valley Schools: **Tuesday, September 15, 2026**

Mesa County Valley School District 51: **Thursday, September 17, 2026**

Jeffco Public Schools: Tuesday, **September 22, 2026**

Boulder Valley School District: Thursday, **September 24, 2026**

For more information, visit this **CSU Webpage**.

2026 Fall Double Reed Workshop

September 19, 2026, Colorado State University

Tailored for new or beginner oboists and bassoonists, this workshop will help you gain fundamental skills, build confidence and sound your best! Led by Dr. Cayla Bellamy, bassoon, and Dr. Galit Kaunitz, oboe, this event is perfect not only for students, but for band directors looking to brush up their comfort level with the double reeds. Come learn more about the oboe and bassoon in a friendly and low-pressure environment!

For more information and to register, visit this **CSU webpage**.

Events for STUDENTS

Fall Be a Voice Major for a Day

October 5, 2026, Colorado State University

Join us on the Colorado State University (CSU) campus and experience a day in the life of a music major in the voice area! The day is an opportunity for high school students, transfer students, associate degree graduates and current CSU students (and their parents/guardians) to see what it is like being a music major at CSU.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend a choir rehearsal, opera performance and a class within your degree area, have lunch with current students and have a voice lesson with a faculty member. Parents are welcome!

For more information and to register, visit this **CSU webpage**.

2026 Fall Dance Experience: Visit and Audition Day

November 6, 2026, Colorado State University

The Dance Experience: Visit and Audition Days include an overview of our dance program, excerpts from our upcoming Dance Concert performed in our dance spaces, and teaching demonstrations by Colorado State University (CSU) Dance faculty for prospective students to observe or participate in. Prospective students (and parents/guardians) can ask questions of the faculty and current students during a Q&A session. Prospective students (high school juniors, seniors, transfer students and CSU students) will meet dance faculty and current dance majors.

For more information and to register, visit this **CSU webpage.**

2026 Fall Theatre Visit Day

November 13, 2026, Colorado State University

Theatre Visit Day is an opportunity for high school students, transfer students and current Colorado State University (CSU) students (and parents/guardians) to meet CSU Theatre faculty and students, tour the University Center for the Arts, join themed break-out sessions, eat lunch with current theatre students and attend a special performance of our fall production. The itinerary includes an overview of our program and degrees.
For more information and to register, visit this **CSU webpage**.

We Want to Hear from You!

Send Us Your Happenings!

The CDE Arts Education e-Updates are sent **five times** during the school year:

September/October, November/December, January/February, March/April, May/Summer.

Send information to Latva_L@cde.state.co.us **by the 1st day of the month** for your news to be included in an edition.

Featured Artwork Submissions

Send us a photo of a student artwork or performance to be featured in our eUpdate!

Submissions should include ***Title, Name of Artist, Grade, Media, School***. One school will be featured in each bi-monthly eUpdate.

Send submissions to Latva_L@cde.state.co.us by the 1st of the month.

Colorado's Visual and Performing Arts

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Colorado State Arts Partners

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Colorado Arts Associations

Colorado Arts Education Association (CAEA)

Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA)

Colorado State Thespians

Colorado Dance Education Organization (CoDEO)

CDE Quick Links

CDE Arts Webpage

Colorado Academic Standards

Student Success Guides

Student Success Guides are designed for parents, guardians, caretakers, and communities. They act as a toolkit of questions and activities to support students' learning in alignment with the Colorado Academic Standards.