Visual and Performing Arts Education eUpdate

Colorado Academic Standards | All Students All Standard **November/December 2026**

NEWS

Important information from CDE Standards and Instructional Support

Colorado Standards Revision Updates

HAPPENING SOON

Last Call for Arts Standards Feedback

Just a few more days to share your feedback! The Colorado Department of Education is seeking public input on the Colorado Academic Standards in Music, Dance, Drama/Theatre, and Visual Arts to help inform the State Board of Education's decision about potential revisions. Take a few minutes to complete the **Public Feedback Survey** and make your voice heard! Feedback will be accepted through **November 13th.**



London Pate, Pine Creek High School, Colorado Scholastics Gold Key and National Scholastics Gold Medal Awardee

MORE NEWS



Creative Conversations

The CDE Arts team continues their four-part, arts-specific professional development series, Creative Conversations. Registration is open for all sessions, including the quickly approaching *Intentional Classroom Culture in the Arts.*

Each session is free, virtual, and participants are eligible to earn credit toward license renewal upon completion.

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

REGISTER TODAY!

Intentional Classroom Culture in the Arts

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

HAPPENING SOON

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.*

Events for EDUCATORS

Conductology

NEW RESOURCE

Conductology is a universal gesture language for real-time music making. Using 18 hand gestures, a Conductologist leads an ensemble as it improvises and composes original music together, and participants need no prior musical training. Developed by Dr. Denise White through research at Ulster University in Northern Ireland and co-created with musicians with intellectual disabilities, it was designed for inclusive and mixed-ability settings, from K-12 classrooms and special education programs to universities and community groups. World Music Development and Shine Music are the official North American partners of Conductology C.I.C., beginning in Colorado.

Learn more at the **World Music Development website.**

The Dance Archive

NEW RESOURCE

The Dance Archive at the University of Denver offers K-12 lessons based on archival content as a novel way to engage students through visual imagery and movement-based active learning.

These lessons are organized around the Colorado Academic Standards and can be adapted for any grade level. Currently, the Folklorico and Danza Azteca curricula are available, with more to come soon! These lessons are designed for any teacher to implement with as much or as little support from TDA staff as desired. No prior dance training is required.

Access the most current lessons on this **Dance Archive webpage**.

For additional information about The Dance Archive, available resources and collaborative opportunities for your classroom, visit their **programs page here**.

Events for EDUCATORS

CoDEO Annual Dance Education Conference

January 16-17, 2027

Need to earn professional development credit? Educators attending the two-day dance education conference have the opportunity to receive professional development credit through the University of Northern Colorado! Build your educator toolkit with educator-specific movement & lecture workshops to use in your classrooms.

This two-day dance education conference offers two tracks of learning sessions: one for educators and the other for students in grades 8 through college.

Attending students get to work with professionals to learn dance forms they may not typically get at their school and more. Attending colleges from across Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico may offer scholarships.

Learn more at the **CoDEO website**.

2027 CMEA Clinic/Conference Registration Is Open

January 27-30, 2027

Registration is now open for the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) 2027 Clinic/Conference, taking place January 27–30 at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. This annual event brings together music educators for professional learning, inspiring performances, networking, and opportunities to explore new teaching resources and strategies.

Early registration is available through November 30, 2026, with discounted rates for eligible members and first-year teachers.

For more details and to register, visit this **CMEA webpage**.

Events for STUDENTS

George Masa Youth Conservation Photography Prize

HAPPENING SOON

Contest closes November 16, 2026

The George Masa Youth Conservation Photography Prize invites middle and high school students to share how they see the natural world through photography.

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 are available on the **George Masa Website**.

New Generation: Month of Photography Teen Show 2027

Submissions open from November 2, 2026 to December 4, 2026

Colorado Art Awards invites high school photography students across Colorado to submit their work. In partnership with Denver Month of Photography, this juried exhibition celebrates the creativity and unique perspectives of young photographers.

Educators: This is a fantastic opportunity to encourage students to explore photography, develop their artistic voice, and experience exhibiting their work in a professional setting. There is no submission fee, and students may submit one image for consideration.

To learn more about eligibility, submission guidelines, and exhibition details, visit the **Colorado Art Awards website**.

Poetry Out Loud National Program

Registration closes December 11th!

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.**

Events for STUDENTS

2026 Fall Theatre Visit Day

HAPPENING SOON

November 13, 2026, Colorado State University

Theatre Visit Day is an opportunity for high school students, transfer students, 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**.

Colorado Thespians Student Leadership Summit Registration Open

January 29, 2027

The fourth annual Student Leadership Summit is scheduled! Students involved with their school troupe and active in Colorado Thespians are invited to attend this one-day workshop focused on leadership through the lens of theatre.

Registration is $100 for five representatives and an adult chaperone. Additional attendees are $25 each.

For more information and registration, visit the **Colorado Thespians website**.

Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum

December 2026

Experience an incredible blend of dance, music, costumes and spoken word that lifts the spirit and fills the heart with joy, love and peace of holiday time. From the African Harvest to Kwanzaa, from Hanukkah to Diwali to Junkanoo, this cultural show of holidays from around the globe is a celebration of diversity and oneness. Performances of the full production will run over 3 weekends in December, which are open to the public and great for kids.

For more information and to book your tickets, visit the **Cleo Parker Dance website.**

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

Colorado Creative Industries

Think 360 Arts

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.