

# ARTS PROGRAM CURRICULUM RESOURCES



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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# ARTS PROGRAM CURRICULUM RESOURCES

This resource provides arts educators:

- A scope and sequence example for K-12 arts learning pathways
- Instructional materials and resources to apply in arts education courses and learning opportunities
- Information around standards alignment in the arts curriculum

Through arts programs that provide high quality, relevant, and culturally affirming content and curriculum, and K-12 pathways for students to build on their artistic learning in various disciplines, students gain access to essential skills and knowledge needed to grow as artists, communicate effectively, develop their creativity, and make meaningful change in our complex world.



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## Scope and Sequence: Pathways for Arts Learning K-12

In order to develop a full range of skills in a particular art form, students must work on and refine their skills over time, just as in all content areas. A scope and sequence for K-12 art programs is a critical component to ensuring that students build on their learning in developmentally appropriate ways as they grow, and have access to a rich set of arts learning and experiences at all grade levels. It can also ensure consistency across buildings and help establish arts pathways within a district program.

Consider providing opportunities for arts educators to connect across the district to assist in the development of pathways and a K-12 scope and sequence in the various arts disciplines. [The Chicago Public Schools Skyline Arts Education Scope & Sequences](#)<sup>1</sup> for arts education provides a framework for developing a scope and sequence, addressing the areas of Dance, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

## Instructional Materials and Resources

Connecting curriculum to areas of relevance for students and authentic learning opportunities across multiple content areas increases program access. More students are likely to see themselves in the lesson materials, share their stories and voice, and experience tangible examples of the relevance of arts learning to their lives. This section provides ideas and resources around strengthening an arts curriculum and making connections to district arts pathways in service of programmatic goals.

## ACCESSIBLE ARTS EDUCATION MATERIALS

Planning is essential in order to provide quality resources for students, and is necessary to provide learning supports for each individual student that comes into a program.

Students experiencing disabilities must be provided the proper modifications or support to participate fully in arts program activities. This can include modifying materials, tools, seating arrangements, or equipment as necessary to meet student needs and address student Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Plan in advance and discuss with the student and Special Education Department.

[Oregon Open Learning's Accessible Education Materials Group](#) hosts multiple resources to explore and understand accessibility with educational materials and learn about creating accessible arts instructional materials for all students.

- ▶ [Access the Oregon Open Learning's Accessible Education Materials Group](#)



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<sup>1</sup> Although these resources are aligned to the Illinois state arts standards, they are provided here as resources for educators to consider when crafting Oregon arts standards aligned scope and sequence plans.

## RESOURCE EVALUATION

When determining which curriculum to purchase for an art program or to evaluate the quality of a program in use, it is helpful to have an assessment framework. The [OER Quality Framework Evaluation Tool](#) is one example of such a tool. This framework was developed to guide the curation and creation of Open Educational Resources to be shared with education networks.

- ▶ [Access the OER Quality Framework Evaluation Tool](#)



The basic criteria highlighted in the assessment of content through the OER Quality Framework are:

### Alignment to Standards

- Aligns to Oregon State Standards and CTE Oregon Skill Sets

### Learning Supports

- Equitable and Socially Responsible Material
- Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness
- Accessibility
- Student Agency

### Instructional Supports

- Guidance and Purpose for Instruction
- Differentiation
- Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching
- Mental, Social & Emotional Well-Being
- Disciplinary Literacy and Content Area Literacy

### Student-Centered Assessment Practices

- Formative Assessment Process
- Opportunities for Self and Peer Assessment



## OREGON DISTRICT-BASED SPOTLIGHT ON RESOURCE EVALUATION

The Portland Public Schools Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) team developed evaluation resources to assist arts educators in choosing high-quality arts instructional materials. The [PPS Music Literature and Sheet Music Evaluation Tool](#) can assist music educators in choosing high-quality resources for the music classroom.



Photo credit: Portland Art Museum.

*The Cleveland High School Saxophone quartet performing at the Portland Art Museum.*

## OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: OREGON OPEN LEARNING AND THE OREGON ARTS GROUP

The [Oregon Open Learning Hub](#) ('the Hub') is an online resource database to find and share open educational resources (OER) that are curated and created for and by Oregon educators. The Hub features both local resources such as the [Tribal History/Shared History lessons](#) developed in partnership with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, as well as national resources from organizations like the Smithsonian.



The [Oregon Arts Group](#) is a working space for arts educators to share, remix, and curate lessons to utilize in their classrooms. Anyone can view the group to access resources and search for lessons by age group and arts domain to utilize or remix for their curriculum. Educators that join the group will be able to curate and submit lessons and connect on the group message board. This group continues to grow as new resources are added.

- ▶ [Access the Oregon Arts Group on the Oregon Open Learning Hub](#)



## OREGON INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ADOPTION CYCLE

Oregon conducts a seven-year, content-area-specific [adoption schedule](#). Currently, there are no adopted instructional materials for the arts, and the next evaluation of arts instructional materials is due to occur in 2026. Find more information for publishers of instructional materials on [Oregon Department of Education's Announcements & Notices](#) page, where information related to upcoming instructional materials adoptions will be published.



## Oregon Standards Alignment in Arts Curriculum

The [Oregon Arts Standards](#), adopted by the State Board of Education, are Oregon's guide to what students should be able to know and do in their arts courses throughout their learning journey. [Academic Standards and Requirements for the Arts in Oregon](#) provides more information about teaching the Oregon Arts Standards, and requirements to provide access to learning aligned to these standards in Oregon schools.

- ▶ Access the [Academic Standards and Requirements for the Arts in Oregon Resource](#)



## APPLIED ARTS STANDARDS AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Some arts courses may be offered through Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. [Oregon's Career and Technical Education Skill Sets](#) provide a framework for what students should learn in these courses. Arts courses including fine and performing arts and digital arts, align to the Oregon Skill Set for the [Arts, A/V Technology and Communications Pathway](#). CTE courses have further guidance around what students should learn and be able to do when engaging in arts-related CTE courses, that are specific to many distinct technical courses such as Technical Theatre and Audio/Visual Design.

For more information about the Arts, A/V Technology and Communications CTE Pathway, and initiating and supporting CTE programs in this pathway, contact [Jeff Rhoades](#), Arts, Information and Communication Technology Education Specialist.

## STANDARDS CROSSWALKS

Individual sets of academic standards are divided by content area, but this does not mean that learning naturally occurs in a compartmentalized fashion. The arts standards are focused on students learning specific artistic languages, expressing themselves effectively through them, and engaging in inquiry around the use and place of the arts in human society. For this reason, connections exist between the Oregon Arts Standards to standards in virtually all other subjects.

Educators can tap into this potential. For example, plentiful opportunities for social-emotional learning (SEL) exist within arts content. This [Arts and SEL crosswalk](#) from the Center for Arts Education and Social Emotional Learning highlights common learning goals in the CASEL competencies and artistic processes of the National Core Arts Standards.

The [Arts Education Program Models](#) resource provides additional examples of arts content integrated with various additional subject standards. The Oregon Department of Education's [Oregon Arts and Ethnic Studies Standards Crosswalk](#) highlights connections between arts content and the newest [2021 Integrated Social Science and Ethnic Studies](#) standards.

- ▶ Access the [Oregon Arts and Ethnic Studies Standards Crosswalk](#)



## ARTS LESSON PLAN TEMPLATE

This [editable lesson plan template](#), developed to share on the Oregon Open Learning Platform, can guide the creation of lessons that address the Oregon Arts Standards, are culturally and linguistically responsive, and incorporate [Universal Design for Learning Guidelines](#). Make a copy of the template to begin creating and customizing lessons.

- ▶ [Access the Oregon Open Learning Art Lesson Plan Template](#)



## ADDITIONAL ARTS LESSON MATERIALS AND RESOURCES<sup>2</sup>

- ▶ [Arts Impact](#) offers free arts integration curriculum for multiple arts disciplines
- ▶ [Ok You](#) provides free lessons for all ages, with a focus on learning about and caring for mental health through the arts
- ▶ [Carnegie Hall Music Educators Toolbox](#) features free lesson materials for music educators
- ▶ The Oregon Game Project has compiled [a list of free media arts and game design programs](#) for students
- ▶ [Institute for Arts Integration and STEAM](#) offers free content geared towards cross-curricular instruction in the arts
- ▶ The Oregon Open Learning [Arts Group](#) is an evolving set of open educational resources for K-12 arts educators, sorted by arts discipline and grade level
- ▶ [FilmEd Lesson Plans](#) are a film-based K-8 curriculum designed to provide meaningful arts engagement and support media literacy
- ▶ [Portland Art Museum Poster Project](#) provides lesson plans based around artwork found in the Portland Art Museum collection
- ▶ [Kennedy Center: Digital Resources Library](#) offers online lessons and teaching artist resources for multiple arts disciplines
- ▶ [Practicing Musician](#) is a free platform that offers curriculum to provide a flipped classroom model in music courses.
- ▶ Music Will features free [downloadable music teacher resources](#) including charts, songbooks and lessons
- ▶ [Smithsonian American Art Museum: Education Resources](#) offers a multitude of resources for educators based on the arts collections at the Smithsonian American Art Museum
- ▶ [National Dance Institute ndiLIVE!](#) offers online dance lessons from NDI teaching artists
- ▶ [Stage Partners Free Classroom Resources](#) provide free monologues, scenes, and lesson plans for theatre educators

<sup>2</sup> *Note: These curricular resources have not been endorsed by ODE, but are being shared as relevant resources for arts education professionals to consider.*

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