

**CONTENT STANDARDS WITH BENCHMARKS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS  
FOR DANCE  
Grades 6-8**

<b>Strand: Dance</b>
<b>Standard 1:</b> Students will learn and develop skills and meet technical demands unique to dance, music, theatre/drama and visual arts.
<b>Grades 6-8 Benchmark 1A:</b> Demonstrate kinesthetic awareness. Grades 6-8 performance standards:
<b>Performance Standards</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify major muscles and bones of the body and demonstrate appropriate skeletal alignment, balance, flexibility and strength.</li><li>2. Create and perform original sequences that demonstrate knowledge of locomotor and non-locomotor movements.</li></ol>
<b>6-8 Benchmark 1B:</b> Identify and demonstrate the elements of space, time and energy. Grades 6-8 performance standards:
<b>Performance Standards</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Demonstrate and describe shapes and designs (using appropriate vocabulary) made individually and in complementary relationships with others.</li><li>2. Create, memorize and perform movement studies for peers, which utilize spatial patterns, individually and in groups.</li><li>3. Identify the vocabulary of time (speed, rhythmic pattern, stillness, duration) and apply the concepts with increasing complexity.</li><li>4. Demonstrate a broader range of movement qualities with respect to energy (e.g., sharp, smooth, shaky, sudden, sustained, swinging, twisting, collapsing and percussive).</li></ol>
<b>Standard 2:</b> Use dance, music, theatre/drama and visual arts to express ideas.
<b>6-8 benchmark 2:</b> Use the elements of movement to express imaginative, literary and personal themes. Grades 6-8 performance standards
<b>Performance Standards</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Use improvisation to explore, discover and create movement phrases based on emotions, memories or personal stories.</li><li>2. Choose from a variety of movements to create movement studies that accurately communicate the intention of an experience, idea, theme or story.</li></ol>

**Standard 3:** Integrate understanding of visual and performing arts by seeking connections and parallels among arts disciplines as well as other content areas.

**6-8 Benchmark 3A:** Explore connections between dance and other arts disciplines.

**Performance Standards**

1. Create a dance project that integrates two or more arts disciplines (e.g., dance and art relating concepts of line or pattern to both disciplines).

**6-8 Benchmark 3B:** Explore connections between dance and other content areas.

**Performance Standards**

1. Use dance to illustrate the movement that is inherent in other content areas.
2. Create a dance project that integrates other subject matter (e.g., relationships, current events, social issues, nature, literature, history, environmental themes).

**Standard 4:** Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of the creative process.

**6-8 Benchmark 4:** Understand and apply choreographic principles, processes and structures.

**Performance Standards**

1. Create movement sequences that explore the choreographic principles of unity, variety, contrast, repetition, harmony, abstraction, emphasis and balance.
2. Choreograph using a variety of compositional forms (e.g., ABA, canon, rondo, chance dance and narrative).

**Standard 5:** Observe, discuss, analyze, and make critical judgments about artistic works.

**6-8 benchmark 5:** Develop and use vocabulary that is unique to dance.

**Performance Standards**

1. Observe choreography (live or recorded) and discuss, analyze and evaluate choreographic choices using appropriate dance vocabulary

**Standard 6:** Show increased awareness of diverse peoples and cultures through visual and performing arts.

**Grades 6-8 benchmark 6A:** Develop knowledge and understanding of human diversity through dance.

**Performance Standards**

1. Study dances from other cultures and other historical periods.
2. Identify and compare movements, music and costume in historical, cultural and contemporary dances.

**6-8 Benchmark 6B:** Investigate the role of dance in historical and contemporary cultures.

**Performance Standards**

1. Observe and discuss the different functions of dance in various cultures (e.g., ceremony, entertainment, social interaction).

**Standard 7:** Demonstrate knowledge about how technology and invention have historically influenced artists and offered new possibilities for expression.

**6-8 benchmark 7:** Expand dance horizons through the use of technology

**Performance Standards**

1. Use a variety of resources (e.g., print, recordings, internet, etc.) to research dance from other cultures and historical periods.
2. Demonstrate through discussion the ways that technology influences dance and movement.

**Standard 8:** Contribute to communities by sharing expertise in dance, music, theatre/drama and visual arts and by participating in the activities of cultural institutions.

**6-8 Benchmark 8A:** Share dance abilities and knowledge with the community through formal and informal dance presentations.

**Performance Standards**

1. Participate in dance presentations, both informal and choreographed, for the school and the larger community.

**Grades 6-8 Benchmark 8B:** Participate in community dance events

**Performance Standards**

1. Participate in informal and formal dance presentations that reflect the interests and culture of the community.