



## COMPREHENSIVE ARTS EDUCATION

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*Comprehensive arts education* (also known as *discipline-based arts education*) is a conceptual approach, not a prescribed curriculum. Taught as an essential component of general education and as a foundation for specialized arts study, the goal of comprehensive arts education is to develop students' abilities to understand and appreciate the arts by:

- exploring the nature and meaning of the arts (aesthetics)
- responding to the arts (criticism)
- discovering contexts of art works (history)
- creating works of art (production and performance)

Curriculum is:

- written with sequentially organized content at all grade levels
- developed around enduring ideas and works of art from western and non-western cultures in ancient to contemporary times
- structured to provide creative inquiry from the four discipline perspectives (aesthetics, criticism, history, production)
- organized to increase student learning and understanding while recognizing appropriate developmental levels.

Full implementation of a comprehensive arts education program is marked by:

- systematic and regular arts instruction, arts education expertise, administrative support, and adequate resources
- student achievement and program effectiveness, which are confirmed by appropriate evaluation criteria and procedures.