

Summer 2024

Standards Aligned Proficiency Based Arts

Introducing the Customized Arts Learning Toolkit

Meet the Teacher

Stay Connected!

How to Access this Newsletter:

- ✓ Request subscription by emailing AOE.PBLHelpdesk@vermont.gov (your name will be added to a Listserv)
- ✓ The [AOE Weekly Field Memo](#)
- ✓ The AOE Website: [Visual and Performing Arts](#)



Standards Aligned Proficiency-Based Arts

Throughout my teaching career, I've often questioned whether I was doing enough to provide my students with a high-quality education. I have participated in numerous professional development opportunities and closely followed the National Core Arts Standards. However, I struggled with the challenge of meeting all these standards effectively. To address this, I created the "Roadmap to Proficiency" documents for dance, music, visual arts, and theater. These roadmaps are designed to clarify what can be assessed, helping educators ensure they are covering the standards comprehensively and effectively.

The roadmaps I've developed illustrate how students can collaboratively demonstrate proficiency across the arts, emphasizing grade band Priority Performance Indicators. It's crucial for students to achieve proficiency at each grade level, akin to progressing step-by-step towards mastery, much like grains of salt. The Priority Performance Indicators act as the foundational rock salt, while the grade-level standards represent refined salt that is more actionable and specific in guiding educational outcomes.

It's important to remember that proficiency in the arts involves their interconnectedness. While all standards should be covered in instruction, not all require assessment. When constructing proficiency scales to track student progress, it's crucial to exclude criteria that are specific to individual teachers. This approach ensures a clear and objective assessment of student performance with established standards.

To learn more, please explore the following roadmaps. These documents are designed to provide detailed insights into achieving proficiency in dance, music, visual arts, and theater.

- [Dance Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements \(PBGR\) Road Map](#)
- [Music Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements \(PBGR\) Road Map](#)
- [Theater Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements \(PBGR\) Road Map](#)
- [Visual Arts Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements \(PBGR\) Road Map](#)

Introducing the Customized Arts Learning Toolkit

The [State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education \(SEADAE\)](#) is committed to advancing arts education nationwide. With a mission to support the professional development of its members and advocate for arts education, SEADAE strives to ensure all PreK-12 students gain artistic literacy through equitable access to quality learning opportunities in dance, music, theatre, visual art, and media arts. To further this mission, SEADAE introduces the [Customized Arts Learning \(CAL\) toolkit](#), designed to facilitate personalized and inclusive arts education. [The CAL toolkit](#)

supports culturally affirming and sustaining instructional practices, addressing the diverse needs of students and connecting arts learning with academic and interpersonal development.

Intended for PK-12 settings, the CAL toolkit is adaptable to various educational contexts, allowing teachers to prepare lesson materials, create engaging learning experiences, and address learning gaps through a culturally responsive approach. By aligning with both the National Arts Standards and local learning outcomes, the CAL toolkit ensures all students benefit from high-quality arts education. SEADAE encourages educators to utilize this toolkit to enhance their teaching practices and provide all students with the opportunity to experience the transformative power of the arts.

Meet the Teacher

Arts Educators are rad! We should all be lucky to know more. Please take a look at this season's spotlights.

Alisa Allbee Daigneault
Music Educator
Windham Northeast Supervisory Union

Alisa Allbee Daigneault has been teaching Music in the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union for 29 years.

Alisa graduated Cum Laude from the Crane School of Music in 1995 with a BM in Music Education, Vocal Concentration.

She began her career as a Choral Director at Bellows Falls Union High School, then split her time between the High School and Saxtons River Elementary School (where she has remained for the past 27 years). At Saxtons River, she found "home" and discovered her love of General Elementary Music Education. After seven years of High School Choral Direction, she decided to dedicate all her teaching to the elementary level. She began teaching at the Bellows Falls Central Elementary School (where she has remained for the past 22 years). Alisa has been part time at Saxtons River and Central Elementary for the last 22 years.

Over the course of her tenure as an Elementary Music Educator, Alisa has incorporated Orff Schulwerk (Level II Certified), First Steps in Music and Conversational Solfege (certified in both) as well as her own belief of hands on "music is doing". Folk dance, movement, singing, and playing classroom instruments (ukulele, recorder, and guitar) fill her lessons with this hands-on approach. She has been Musical Director in high school as well as full scale elementary musicals. Alisa has directed many all-school concerts (including acting, props, and instruments). She has directed shows for smaller gatherings such as concerts for the Bellows Falls Women's Club and all-school events and assemblies (vocal, dance, and plays).

Alisa feels her teaching must include joy! Every lesson should be an opportunity for students to find their inner voice and strength. She has excellent connections with her students and enjoys their creative ideas. Alisa teaches with tons of energy and has classes that are very engaged in learning. She provides diverse opportunities for her students to develop their musical skill and has a firm belief that ALL students can succeed.



Alisa loves to learn. She is a lifetime student and feels she learns something new every day. She stays current in all school and district initiatives and enjoys contributing to her schools outside of Music class. Alisa is always looking for new techniques and ideas to improve her teaching.

Alisa is a singer. She plays the guitar, piano, accordion, flute, banjo, and a whole slew of other instruments!

When she is not teaching, she is home hard at work in her beloved perennial and vegetable gardens. She enjoys time spent at home with her family, dogs, chickens, and miniature horses.

Rebecca McGregor
9-12 Dance Educator
Lyndon Institute

Rebecca McGregor holds a Secondary License in Dance, a BS in Exercise Science, and a master's in education. In 2003, she developed the dance program at Lyndon Institute and founded the annual Vermont State Dance Festival. Rebecca collaborates with the VT Agency of Education to develop and revise Vermont's dance standards and licensing requirements, create assessment tools for dance education, and advocate for arts education.

As a member of SHAPE and the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), Rebecca has been deeply involved in the dance education community. She served as a mentor in NDEO's pilot mentoring program in 2017 and has been a member of the NDEO Mentoring Committee since 2019. Her contributions include presentations for Northeastern University's NExT Professional Learning Conversations and roles as an adjudicator for the NDEO's National Honor Society for Dance Arts Award in 2021 and the NDEO's Annual Conference workshop proposals in 2022.

Rebecca's accolades include the Johnson State College Rising Star/Young Alumni Award, the Youth Impact Award, the VAHPERD Dance Educator of the Year Award, and the David Dwyer Lyndon Institute Teacher of the Year Award. In 2020, she received a Presidential Award from the National Dance Education Organization for her service to the Mentorship Committee and her visionary work in dance education. In 2021, she was accepted into the Vermont Leadership Institute for the 2021-2022 year, and in 2022, she received the NDEO Outstanding Leadership in K-12 Dance Education Award.

Rebecca's core values are honor and integrity. Her mission statement is: "I create opportunities to honor self and others and build integrity through courageous moments."

Rebecca's favorite activity with students is guiding them through the creative process of generating, selecting, organizing, interpreting, analyzing, and revising dance phrases into intentional choreography. She finds it incredible to witness students' growth not just as dancers but as young adults, as they develop problem-solving, communication, and collaboration strategies, self-direction, and advocacy, while also pushing beyond their comfort zones and cultivating safe movement practices and artistry.



If Rebecca could bring one famous dancer to her school, it would be Gene Kelly. His athleticism and energy in dancing captivated audiences. Kelly's fusion of ballet, modern, and jazz showcased the versatility necessary for modern dancers. He brought dance to many in America through television and film, appealing to people of all ages and backgrounds. Kelly exemplifies that dance can be done by anyone, about anything, and should reflect one's own style to convey a story or message, making him an inspirational figure for Rebecca's school and community.

Cathy Archer
Theater Educator
Rutland City Schools

Cathy is a teacher, director, costume designer, ITS Troupe director, education committee member for EDTA, VDC member, mother, nana, figure skater, and baker. She teaches middle school and high school theatre in the Rutland City Schools. Teaching theatre is close to her heart because it saved her in high school and was a big part of her life even earlier. Theatre teaches empathy and unites people to create something greater than themselves. Her favorite activities with students are improvisation and theatre games; she loves watching them think on their feet and joining in the games, which helps her bond with them. Her dream person for her students to meet is Julie Taymor.

Stay Connected

If you've reached this paragraph, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you. A resounding shout out to all individuals who tirelessly contribute to fostering love and passion in the arts. Remember, it's crucial to stay connected and never hesitate to reach out whenever you require assistance or support. We're here for each other in this journey of creativity and expression.



Arts Specialist
Proficiency-Based Learning
Team
Vermont Agency of Education
1 National Life Drive, Davis 5
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<https://education.vermont.gov/student-learning/content-areas/visual-and-performing-arts>