

Current Arts Education Requirements¹: Standards, Credits and Courses

updated June 2023

Level	Credits and Courses: Requirements for Students	Credits and Courses: Requirements for Teachers
Elementary and middle schools	Students enrolled in kindergarten through age 17 must receive instruction in the arts (Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120A.22). Students must be offered at least three and required to meet the state standards and benchmarks in two arts areas ² (Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120A.21).	K-6 th grade: Teacher must have the appropriate arts license or elementary generalist license (recommended no more than part time in an elementary generalist's day.) (Professional Educator Standards and Licensing Board, PELSB) 7-8 th grade: Teacher must have the appropriate arts license. (PELSB)
High schools	Students must earn 1 arts credit sufficient to satisfy all the state arts standards. Students must be offered at least 3 and required to meet the standards in at least one arts area (Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.021 , Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.024). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A credit is a student successfully completing an academic year of study or a student mastering the applicable subject matter, as determined by the local school district. To successfully achieve the amount of learning described in the benchmarks of each arts area, MDE recommends that the credit be in a year-long course in single arts area. A CTE course may count: see box to right for requirements. 	Arts Courses: Teacher must have the appropriate arts license. (see PELSB STAR Assignment Table for arts licenses) All of the following must be in place for CTE courses that count for arts credit (Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.024), Minnesota Rules, part 3505.1150): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher must have a license in CTE. Teacher must have passed the relevant arts MTLE/licensure test. For media arts courses, districts are encouraged to use the visual arts MTLE. The district must ensure that the CTE course meets all standards and benchmarks in an arts area.

Level	Standards: Requirements for Students	Standards ² : Requirements for Teachers
Elementary and middle schools	Students must meet all state arts standards and benchmarks at each grade level in two arts areas. (Minnesota Statutes 2022, 120A.22 , Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.021).	<i>See above for course requirements.</i> Standards may be taught in any class. Districts must have a process to evaluate students' progress toward meeting standards. (Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.011)
High schools	Students must meet all state arts standards and benchmarks in at least one arts area. (Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.021 , Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.024)	<i>See above for credit requirements.</i> Standards may be taught in any class. Districts must have a process to evaluate each student's progress toward meeting standards.

¹ Based on the following Statutes and Rules: Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 120.22(a), 120.11(b), 120.23-24(b), 120.02(b); [Minnesota Rules, part 3505.1150](#), [Minnesota Rules, part 3501.0800-15](#) (www.revisor.mn.gov)

² The five arts areas are Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts.