



Arts Education: What's New?

K–8 curriculum

Based on feedback received in many forms, the redesigned Arts Education K–8 curriculum has been extended to include the Grade 9 draft curriculum (see below).

In providing feedback, reviewers expressed an appreciation for the K–8 curriculum's balanced approach to opportunities for integrating the four disciplines — dance, drama, music, and visual arts — while maintaining the integrity and essential elements, processes, and skills of each discipline.

The redesigned Arts Education curriculum is a clear, unified curriculum that supports students in building on their strengths and pursuing their passions in Arts Education and gives teachers the flexibility to provide discipline-specific instruction or an integrated arts approach. Blending of the arts disciplines is not required, but remains an option. The Curricular Competencies have been expanded to highlight the importance of each of the four disciplines. This not only recognizes the unique aspects of each discipline, but also accommodates art forms in individual or collaborative settings.

The simplified, flexible redesigned Arts Education curriculum replaces the 18 Integrated Resource Packages published variously from 1995 to 2010, which included hundreds of pages of outcomes and prescriptive text. Many aspects of the existing curriculum are preserved in new contexts throughout the redesigned curriculum. For example, a natural progression for creative and artistic work is still captured in the redesigned curriculum. Other key aspects of the existing curriculum preserved in the redesigned curriculum include:

- a focus on creative and artistic processes, including responding to creative work
- content relating to the elements and principles of each discipline
- value placed on discipline-specific literacy and language
- connection of theory and practice
- opportunity for local connections to community
- supports for classroom and personal safety
- connections between grades to support multi-year program models
- celebration of students' unique ideas and creative potential

Grade 9 draft curriculum

The Grade 9 Arts Education draft curriculum is now available online. It continues from the K–8 draft curriculum made available for feedback in 2013. The Grade 9 draft curriculum offers a unique opportunity for all educators to provide a variety of options for students across British Columbia.

To support a range of learning environments, program models, and school structures in the middle and graduation learning years, the Grade 9 draft curriculum includes a core curriculum for exploratory study in Arts Education and discrete sub-curricula for each of the four disciplines — dance, drama, music, and visual arts. This design supports both discipline-specific and interdisciplinary learning, demonstrating a seamless connection between Big Ideas and learning standards in all four disciplines. Whether students are still exploring options in Grade 9 or are displaying interest in pursuing deeper studies in a specific discipline, the new curriculum design ensures that students can pursue their individual interests and passions in Arts Education.

The new design, which also aligns with the proposal for Grades 10 to 12 curriculum (see below), is in keeping with the education transformation agenda of offering all students greater flexibility and choice.

Proposal for Grades 10–12 curriculum

The proposal for the Arts Education Grades 10–12 curriculum is now available online and continues from the K–9 drafts made available for feedback in 2013 and 2015. The draft curriculum enables teachers to provide a variety of options for Grade 10–12 students across British Columbia.

To support a range of learning environments, program models, and school structures in British Columbia’s secondary schools, the draft curriculum includes both a core, provincially required arts learning curriculum and optional sub-curricula for those students who wish to deepen their study in any one of the four core disciplines — dance, drama, music, or visual art — or any interdisciplinary combination.

Content from the existing curriculum has been reorganized to facilitate improved flexibility for instructional planning. A central design concept of the Grades 10–12 draft curriculum is support for interdisciplinary learning and celebration of points of commonality among the core disciplines.

Whether students choose to pursue deeper or broader study in the arts, this new curriculum design will ensure that every student is able to pursue his or her individual interests and passions in Arts Education.

Discipline-Specific *or* Interdisciplinary Study

