Fine Arts

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Fine Arts Curriculum Requirements

1. **Which disciplines are included within fine arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)?**

   The fine arts TEKS include the following disciplines:

   - art (kindergarten–grade 12)
   - dance (grades 6–12)
   - music (kindergarten–grade 12)
   - theatre (kindergarten–grade 12)

2. **Are school districts and open-enrollment charter schools required to offer fine arts?**

   Yes, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools that offer kindergarten–grade 12 must offer an enrichment curriculum that includes fine arts (19 TAC §74.1). Schools must ensure that sufficient time is provided for teachers to teach and for students to learn all of the required curriculum standards, including fine arts.

   For more specific information, please reference questions 3, 4, and 5.

3. **What are the fine arts requirements for elementary school.**

   Fine arts at the elementary level includes TEKS for art, music, and theatre.

   - Elementary schools must provide instruction to all students in all of the TEKS for art, music, and theatre at each grade level (kindergarten–grade 5).

   - School districts and open-enrollment charters must ensure that sufficient time is provided for teachers to teach and for students to learn all the required grade-level student expectations (SEs).

   - While all fine arts TEKS are part of the required curriculum, districts and open-enrollment charters have the flexibility to implement instruction in a variety of arrangements according to their resources. The instructional arrangements and scheduling of instruction are local education agency (LEA) decisions (19 TAC §74.2(a)).

4. **What are the fine arts requirements for middle school?**

   Fine arts at the middle school level includes the disciplines of art, dance, music, and theatre.

- An LEA shall offer and maintain evidence that students have the opportunity to take courses in at least three of the four disciplines in fine arts (art, dance, music, and theatre) (19 TAC §74.3(a)(3)).

- A school district or open-enrollment charter that provides instruction for grade 6 in a self-contained elementary class as part of elementary school must provide instruction for students in grade 6 in the Middle School 1 courses for all four fine arts disciplines (art, dance, music, and theatre) (19 TAC §74.2(b)).

- Middle school students must complete one full TEKS-based fine arts course (e.g. Theatre, Middle School 1) during grades 6, 7, or 8 (19 TAC §74.3(a)(2)). Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in the TEKS for the course.

- School districts and open-enrollment charters must ensure that sufficient time is provided for teachers to teach and for students to learn required standards for at least one TEKS-based fine arts course (19 TAC §74.3(a)(2)).

5. What are the fine arts requirements for high school?

Fine arts at the high school level include courses in art, dance, International Baccalaureate (IB) film, music, music studies, musical theatre, technical theatre, and theatre.

- Districts and open-enrollment charters must ensure that students have the opportunity to take courses in at least two of four areas (disciplines) (19 TAC §74.3(b)(2)(F)).

    - Art I, II, III, IV
    - Dance I, II, III, IV
    - Music I, II, III, IV
    - Theatre I, II, III, IV

- High school students must complete one credit of fine arts to graduate under the Foundation High School Program.

- Credit may be earned through the successful completion of any course from the fine arts TEKS for high school or through an approved community-based fine arts program (19 TAC §74.12(b)(7)(B)). More information regarding community-based fine arts programs can be found on question 17.

- School districts and open-enrollment charters must ensure that sufficient time is provided for teachers to teach and for students to learn the required standards for at least one fine arts credit.

6. **Can the one-credit fine arts graduation requirement be fulfilled by combining half credits of different courses?**

   Yes, the 19 TAC §74.26(d) allows the proportional award of credit. A student may satisfy a graduation requirement for which there are multiple options with one-half credit of one option and one-half credit of a second option, unless otherwise specified by 19 TAC or LEA policy. For example, a district or open-enrollment charter may allow a student to satisfy the one-credit fine arts graduation requirement by combining a half credit for a music course with a half credit of a theatre course.

7. **Can courses in other academic content areas be used to meet the one-credit fine arts requirement for graduation?**

   Yes, according to 19 TAC §74.12(b)(7)(A), the following career and technical education (CTE) courses are approved for the one-credit fine arts graduation requirement:

   - Floral Design
   - Digital Art and Animation
   - 3-D Modeling and Animation

Fine Arts Curriculum Standards

8. **Where can I find the TEKS for fine arts?**

   The fine arts TEKS can be accessed in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 117.

9. **What are the fine arts TEKS?**

   The fine arts TEKS describe what every student should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level or course in each discipline and are organized into the following strands of learning:

   - Foundations
   - Creative expression
   - Historical and cultural relevance
   - Critical evaluation and response

10. **Where can I find the prerequisites for TEKS-based fine arts courses?**

    The prerequisites for TEKS-based fine arts courses can be found in the general requirements section of each fine arts TEKS listed under 19 TAC Chapter 117.

Fine Arts Academics and Eligibility

11. **May a school district or open-enrollment charter remove students from a fine arts class for remedial tutoring or test preparation?**

    The board of trustees of each school district shall adopt and strictly enforce a policy limiting the removal of students from class for remedial tutoring or test preparation. A district may not remove a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation if, as a result of the removal, the student would miss more than 10 percent of the school days on which the class is offered, unless the student's parent or another person standing in parental relation to the student provides to the district written consent for removal from class for such purpose (Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.083).

12. May a student who is ineligible to participate in a University Interscholastic League (UIL) activity due to a failing grade participate in a performance or evaluation that is a course requirement?

According to the 19 TAC 76.1001, a student who is ineligible to participate in a UIL fine arts activity, but who is enrolled in a state-approved course that requires demonstration of the TEKS in a public performance, may participate in the performance if–

- the general public is invited to the performance; and
- the requirement for student participation in public is stated in the TEKS of the course.

The student may not participate if–

- the activity/performance is competitive;
- the activity/performance is held in conjunction with another activity that is considered to be extracurricular;
- the activity/performance is held off campus (except in a case in which adequate facilities do not exist on campus); or
- an admission is charged for the activity/performance.

A student ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity, but who is enrolled in a state approved music course that participates in UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation, may perform with the ensemble during the UIL evaluation performance (TEA-UIL Side-by-Side).

For more specific eligibility requirements for activities governed by UIL, please refer to the TEA-UIL Side-by-Side document published annually by the UIL.

Please note that TEA does not have jurisdiction over the operation and function of UIL competitions and events. Please refer all contest and event-specific questions to the UIL office.

Fine Arts and Physical Education Requirements

13. Can a middle school dance course satisfy both the fine arts and physical education requirement?

The 19 TAC §74.3(a)(1) allows for a variety of instructional arrangements and settings. A student who takes Middle School Dance 1-3 may receive fine arts credit as well as fulfill the PE curriculum requirement if the student receives instruction and demonstrates proficiency in all the TEKS for both content areas. Districts are responsible for ensuring that their instructors are appropriately certified to teach both content areas. Please also note that while the TEKS for middle school dance are based on the level of instruction, the PE TEKS are grade-level specific.

Please note that all students involved in dance courses that are substituting for the physical education requirement are subject to the required physical fitness assessment (TEC §38.101).

14. Can a high school student participating in a UIL fine arts activity earn PE substitution credit?

Yes, for certain high school activities if all conditions are met. The high school PE substitution activities are listed in 19 TAC §74.12(b)(6)(C) and (D). In accordance with local district policy, credit for any of the state-approved PE courses may be earned through participation in the following high school activities: athletics, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC), drill team, marching band, cheerleading, and commissioner of education-approved private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs that are held on or off campus.

All PE substitutions must adhere to 19 TAC §74.12(b)(6)(E) and must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate or vigorous physical activity.

Please note that all students involved in extracurricular activities or courses that are substituting for the physical education requirement are subject to the required physical fitness assessment (TEC §38.101).

15. Do the substitutions for the high school marching band, color guard, and drill team activities count for 0.5 or one high school PE graduation credit?

Districts and open-enrollment charters have local discretion regarding whether to award half or one PE substitution credit for high school graduation credit. In accordance with 19 TAC §74.26, districts and open-enrollment charters may award credit proportionately.

16. **How do LEAs document the use of a fine arts course (not a fine arts activity) to meet the PE credit requirement on the Foundation High School Program?**

    Special explanations codes are available in the Texas Records Exchange (TREx) system to identify allowable high school substitutions and courses taken as a part of the Foundation High School Program. Districts and open-enrollment charters must use the special explanation code "7" to indicate a TEKS-based course that includes 100 minutes of moderate or vigorous physical activity per five-day school week taken to satisfy the physical education requirement on the foundation high school program (19 TAC §74.12(b)(6)(B)).

    LEAs will use the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) ID for the fine arts course and add the special explanation code, "7," as directed by the local student information system (SIS) vendor.

17. **Are middle school students who participate in high school marching band, color guard, or drill team activities able to earn high school PE substitution credit for graduation?**

    No, middle school students cannot earn high school PE substitution credit for graduation by participating in marching band, color guard, or drill team activities.

    High school physical education activity substitutions are only applicable to students who are in high school as part of the Foundation High School Program (19 TAC §74.12(b)(6)).

18. **Are middle school students who participate in high school marching band, color guard, or drill team activities able to satisfy the middle school physical activity requirements?**

    Districts and open-enrollment charters may choose to allow students in grades 6–8 to satisfy their physical activity requirements for grades 6–8 listed in TEC §28.002(l) through marching band, color guard, or drill team activities. This is a local policy decision.

General Questions

19. What is a community-based fine arts program?

The 19 TAC §74.1030 allows a student to complete the one-credit fine arts graduation requirement by participating in a community-based fine arts program not provided by the district or open-enrollment charter school in which the student is enrolled. Credit may be earned through participation in the community-based fine arts program only if the school district or open-enrollment charter school–

- applies to the commissioner of education for approval of the community-based fine arts program;
- certifies that the program provides instruction in the TEKS for a high school fine arts course;
- ensures that the program is organized and monitored by appropriately trained instructors; and
- documents student completion of the approved activity.

The community-based fine arts program may be provided on or off a school campus and outside the regular school day (TEC §28.025). However, students may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day to participate in the community-based fine arts program. The school district or open-enrollment charter school must require that instructors of the community-based fine arts program provide the school entity, at its request, the information necessary to obtain the criminal history record information required for school personnel, if the community-based program is offered on campus.

Details regarding the application process can be found on the TEA fine arts webpage.

20. Can an outside organization apply to TEA to become a community-based fine arts program?

No, only LEAs may apply to TEA to request the approval of a community-based fine arts program. TEA does not have authority over organizations that are not school districts or open-enrollment charters.

Interested outside organizations may contact their local LEA regarding their interest in providing community-based fine arts instruction to their students..

21. Can a student's participation in UIL One-Act Play Contest or a local production count for the one-credit fine arts high school graduation requirement?

No, students may not receive fine arts credit for participating in UIL One-Act Play Contest or in a school theatrical production.

Fine arts credit may only be earned through one of the TEKS-based courses listed in the 19 TAC 74.12(b)(7)(A) or through an approved community-based fine arts program (19 TAC 74.12(b)(7)(B)) that provides instruction in the related TEKS. The UIL One-Act Play is neither a TEKS-based course nor a community-based fine arts program.

Parents and Students

22. What is the difference between a fine arts course and a fine arts activity?

A fine arts course is a state-approved TEKS-based course for which students may satisfy the fine arts requirement for graduation. Courses are typically taught during the school day and must have grades included on a student's transcript. Fine arts courses focus on the instruction of the fine arts TEKS and require that the instructor hold the appropriate certifications to teach the course.

A fine arts activity is a pursuit that a student may participate in that is outside of a fine arts course, such as the activities of marching band, drill team, or One-Act play. Fine arts activities typically take place outside of the school day (19 TAC §76.1001). Many fine arts activities are coordinated by the UIL.

23. How do I know if my student is enrolled in a TEKS-based fine arts course or an activity?

School counseling departments can provide guidance to this question. If in doubt, parents should inquire with their school counseling department about what credits their student may be earning from their current enrollment and what is counting toward high school graduation requirements (19 TAC 74.12).

Many LEAs require participation in activities as a corequisite of TEKS-based courses. This is a local decision. Questions about this should be directed to your school.

24. Where can I find the list of UIL fine arts activities?

The UIL website provides a series of pages with information regarding fine arts activities. Fine arts areas under UIL are organized into the areas of –

- A+ art (grades 4–8);
- drill team;
- music; and
- theatre & film.