

Making sense of NCAS:

Navigating the National Core Arts Standards

To access all Standards documents, go to:

<http://www.nafme.org/my-classroom/standards/>

- All documents are downloadable, and printable
- Short video & webinar available for introduction and explanation
- Items included in the NCAS, and provided on web site:
 - Conceptual Framework (27 pages)
 - Context & Explanation
 - ⇒ EU's; EQ's; Definitions
 - ⇒ Glossary
 - Standards
 - ⇒ PreK-8
 - ⇒ Composition / Theory
 - ⇒ Ensemble
 - ⇒ Guitar / Harmonizing Instruments
 - ⇒ Technology
 - Model Cornerstone Assessments
 - ⇒ GM Gr. 2 (Performing)
 - ⇒ GM Gr. 5 (Performing)
 - ⇒ GM Gr. 8 (Performing)
 - ⇒ MS Ensemble (Performing)
 - ⇒ HS Ensemble (Performing)
 - Customize your own handbook
 - Opportunity to Learn Standards (updated)

- When reading standards, know that:
 - entries in **red** indicate that the word is included in the *Glossary* (soon to be digitally inked!)
 - *italic* type represents new (or advanced) content from previous level
 - The symbols at the top of each entry are code used for identifying and sorting information. This refers to *Anchor Standards* and *Process Components*, as in the following chart:

Artistic Process	Core Arts Anchor Standards	Process Components
Create (Cr)	Cr1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work Cr2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work Cr3. Refine and complete artistic work	Cr1.1 Imagine Cr2.1 Plan & Make Cr3.1 Evaluate, Refine Cr3.2 Present

⇒ For example, the PreK-8 entry **MU:Cr1.1PreKa**

- **MU** = Music (the *discipline*)
- **Cr** = Creating (the *artistic process*)
- **1.1**
 - **1.** = refers to the related *Anchor Standard* (#1)
 - **.1** = refers to the *Process Component*
- **PreK a**
 - **PreK** = grade level
 - **a** = 1st entry of this particular grade level
 - (the next entry would be labeled ‘**b**’, and so on)

⇒ for the entries found in: Composition/Theory; Technology; Guitar/Harmonizing Instruments; and Ensemble

- **MU:Cr2.1.E.8**
 - **MU** = Music
 - **Cr** = Creating
 - **2.1**
 - **2** = refers to the related *Anchor Standard* (#2)
 - **.1** = refers to the *Process Component*
 - **E** = Ensemble (C = Composition; H = Harmonizing; T = Technology)
 - **8** = grade level (5=Novice; 8=Intermediate; I=HS Proficient; II=HS Accomplished; III=HS Advanced)

To customize standards to meet your specific search criteria (e.g. your teaching assignment), go to:

<http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>

- Top portion of page Anchor Standards connected with specific Artistic Process. Click on the Artistic Process for a definition of that process.
- On the bottom of the page find boxes with pull down menus. Make choices to see related standards information
- To create standards information pertaining to your particular job description, click on “*Customize your own handbook*” (lower right corner)
 - Make selections in each category
 - Discipline
 - Process
 - Grade level
 - Include
 - Click on "*Go to Your Custom Handbook.*"
 - Result provides detailed description of the standard(s) you requested
 - Click on links in the left margin to access additional, specific information

Jargon associated with the National Core Arts Standards

Comprehensive glossary provided in 'Context & Explanation' at <http://www.nafme.org/my-classroom/standards/>

Anchor Standard	basic standard
Artistic Literacy	conceptual understandings
CCR	College and Career Readiness
Emerging Ensembles	newly developing performing groups, i.e. mariachi, steel drums
Enduring Understanding	overarching (aka, — big) ideas that are central to the core of the music discipline, and may be transferred to new situations
Essential Question	question that is central to the core of a discipline and promotes investigation to uncover corresponding enduring understanding(s)
Evergreen	Able to be digitally updated
Harmonizing Instruments	guitars, keyboards, ukuleles, etc.
MCA	Model Cornerstone Assessments — suggested assessment process, embedded within a unit of study, that includes a series of focused tasks to measure student achievement
MTE	Music: Traditional and Emerging Ensembles
NCAS	National Core Arts Standards
Novice	beginning study (e.g. grade 5)
Open-ended assessment	assessment that allows students to demonstrate the learning of a particular outcome in a variety of ways, such as demonstrating understanding of rhythmic notation by moving, singing, or chanting
Process Components	Operational verbs that describe the actions artists carry out as they complete each artistic process