

**NCCAS GLOSSARY for
National Core Arts DANCE STANDARDS**

aesthetic	a set of principles concerned with the nature and appreciation of beauty
alignment	the process of adjusting the skeletal and muscular system to gravity to support effective functionality
alternative performance venue	a performance site other than a standard Western style theater (for example, classroom, site specific venue, or natural environment)
anatomical principles	the way the human body's skeletal, muscular and vascular systems work separately and in coordination
artistic criteria	aspects of craft and skill used to fulfill artistic intent
artistic expression	The manifestations of artistic intent through dance, drama music, poetry, fiction, painting, sculpture or other artistic media. In dance, this involves the dance and the dancers within a context.
artistic intent	the purpose, main idea, and expressive or communicative goal(s) of a dance composition study, work, or performance.
artistic statement	an artist's verbal or written introduction of their work from their own perspective to convey the deeper meaning or purpose
body patterning	neuromuscular patterns (for example, core-distal, head-tail, homologous [upper-lower], homo-lateral [same-side], cross-lateral [crossing the body midline])
body-mind principles	concepts explored and/or employed to support body-mind connections (for example, breath, awareness of the environment, grounding, movement initiation, use of imagery, intention, inner-outer, stability-mobility)
body-use	the ways in which movement patterns and body parts are used in movement and dance practice; descriptive method of identifying patterns
bound movement	an "effort element" from Laban Movement Analysis in which energy flow is constricted
Capstone Project	a culminating performance-based assessment that determines what 12 th graders should know and be able to do in various educational disciplines; usually based on research and the development of a major product or project that is an extension of the research
choreographic devices	manipulation of dance movement, sequences or phrases (repetition, inversion, accumulation, canon, retrograde, call and response)
codified movement	common motion or motions set in a particular style that often have specific names and expectations associated with it
context cues	information obtained from the dance that helps one understand or comprehend meaning and intent from a movement, group of movements, or a dance as a whole; requires seeing

relationships between movements and making inferences about the meaning or intent often gleaned from visual, auditory, or sensory stimuli

contrapuntal an adjective that describes the noun counterpoint; music that has at least two melodic lines (voices) played simultaneously against each other; in dance, at least two movement patterns, sequences or phrases danced simultaneously using different body parts or performed by different dancers.

cultural movement practice physical movements of a dance that are associated with a particular country, community, or people

dance literacy the total experience of dance learning that includes the doing and knowing about dance: dance skills and techniques, dance making, knowledge and understanding of dance vocabulary, dance history, dance from different cultures, dance genres, repertory, performers and choreographers, dance companies, and dance notation and preservation.

dance movement principles fundamentals related to the craft and skill with which dance movement is performed (for example, the use of dynamic alignment, breath support, core support, rotation, initiation and sequencing, and weight shift)

dance phrase a brief sequence of related movements that have a sense of continuity and artistic or rhythmic completion

dance structures the organization of choreography and movement to fulfill the artistic intent of a dance or dance study (for example, AB, ABA or theme and variation); often referred to as choreographic form

dance study a short dance that is comprised of several dance phrases based on an artistic idea

dance techniques the tools and skills needed to produce a particular style of movement

dance terminology vocabulary used to describe dance and dance experiences

simple dance terminology (Tier 1/PreK-2): basic pedestrian language (for example, locomotor words walk, run, tip-toe, slither, roll, crawl, jump, march, and gallop; and non-locomotor words bend, twist, turn, open and close)

basic dance terminology (Tier 2/grades 3-5): vocabulary used to describe dance movement techniques, structures, works, and experiences that are widely shared in the field of dance (for example, stage terminology, compositional vocabulary, language defining dance structures and devices, anatomical references, dance techniques such as alignment or “line”)

genre-specific dance terminology (Tier 3/grades 6 up): words used to describe movement within specific dance forms ballet, contemporary, culturally-specific dance, funk, hip-hop, jazz, modern, tap, and others (for example, in Polynesian dance (Hula), auwana, kahiko, halau, kaholo, uwehe, ami); in ballet: glissade, pas de bouree, pas de chat, arabesque; in jazz: kick ball change, pencil turn, jazz walk, jazz run; in modern: contraction, triplets, spiral, pivot turn; and in tap: shuffle-step, cramp roll, riff, wing, time step

dance work a complete dance that has a beginning, middle (development), and end

dynamics	the qualities or characteristics of movement which lend expression and style; also called “efforts,” or “energy (for example, lyrical, sustained, quick, light, or strong)
elements of dance	the key components of movement; movement of the body using space, time, and energy; often referred to as the elements of movement; see Elements of Dance Organizer by Perpich Center for Arts Education (used with permission).
embody	to physicalize a movement, concept or idea through the body
energy	the dynamic quality, force, attach, weight, and flow of movement.
evaluative criteria	the definition of values and characteristics with which dance can be assessed; factors to be considered to attain an aesthetically satisfying dance composition or performance
explore	investigate multiple movement possibilities to learn more about an idea
free flowing movement	an “effort element” from Laban Movement Analysis in which energy is continuous
functional alignment	the organization of the skeleton and musculature in a relationship to gravity that supports safe and efficient movement while dancing
general space	spatial orientation that is not focused towards one area of a studio or stage
genre	a category of dance characterized by similarities in form, style, purpose, or subject matter (for example, ballet, hip hop, modern, ballroom, cultural practices)
kinesthetic awareness	pertaining to sensations and understanding of bodily movement
locomotor	movement that travels from one location to another or in a pathway through space (for example, in PreK, walk, run, tip-toe, slither, roll, crawl, jump, march, gallop; in Kindergarten, the addition of prance, hop, skip, slide, leap)
movement characteristics	the qualities, elements, or dynamics that describe or define a movement
movement phrase	a brief sequence of related movements that have a sense of continuity and artistic or rhythmic completion
movement problem	a specific focus that requires one find a solution and complete a task; gives direction and exploration in composition
movement vocabulary	codified or personal movement characteristics that define a movement style
negative space	the area (space) around and between the dancer(s) or dance images(s) in a dance
non-locomotor	movement that remains in place; movement that does not travel from one location to another or in a pathway through space for example, in PreK, bend, twist, turn, open, close; in Kindergarten, swing, sway, spin, reach, pull)
performance etiquette	

performance values and expected behaviors when rehearsing or performing (for instance, no talking while the dance is in progress, no chewing gum, neat and appropriate appearance, dancers do not call out to audience members who are friends)

performance practices

commonly accepted behaviors and practices when rehearsing and performing on stage (for example, production order is technical rehearsal, dress rehearsal, then performance; dancers warm up on stage and must leave when the stage manager tells them; when "places" are called, dancers must be ready to enter the performing space)

personal space

the area of space directly surrounding one's body extending as far as a person can reach; also called the kinesphere

polyrhythmic

in music, several rhythms layered on top of one another and played simultaneously; in dance, embodying several rhythms simultaneously in different body parts

production elements

aspects of performance that produce theatrical effects (for example, costumes, make up, sound, lighting, props)

production terminology

words commonly used to refer to the stage, performance setting, or theatrical aspects of dance presentation

rhythm

the patterning or structuring of time through movement or sound

See.Think.Wonder

an inquiry-based Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) used for critical analysis from Harvard Project Zero, in which children respond to simple questions (What do you see? What do you think? What do you wonder?) which enable a child to begin make meaning from an observed (dance) work of art

sound environment

sound accompaniment for dancing other than music (for example, street noise, ocean surf, bird calls, spoken word)

space

components of dance involving direction, pathways, facings, levels, shapes, and design; the location where a dance takes place; the element of dance referring to the cubic area of a room, on a stage, or in other environments

spatial design

pre-determined use of directions, levels, pathways, formations, and body shapes

stimuli

a thing or event that inspires action, feeling, or thought

style

dance that has specific movement characteristics, qualities, or principles that give it distinctive identity (for example, *Graham technique* is a style of Modern Dance; *rhythm tap* is a style of Percussive Dance; *Macedonian folk dance* is a style of International Folk dance; *Congolese dance* is a style of African Dance)

technical dance skills

the degree of physical proficiency a dancer achieves within a dance style or technique (for example, coordination, form, strength, speed and range)

tempi

different paces or speeds of music, or underlying beats or pulses, used in a dance work or composition (singular: *tempo*)

tempo

the pace or speed of a pulse or beat underlying music or movement (plural: *tempi* or *tempos*)

theme

a dance idea that is stated choreographically