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Introduction to the Vermont Arts Learning Target Bank

What is the Arts Learning Target Bank?

The Vermont Arts Learning Target Bank is a collection of learning targets that are aligned to the [National Core Arts Standards](#) (NCAS) and will be available for all five arts disciplines that are included in NCAS: Dance, Music, Media Arts, Theater, and Visual Art. The NCAS performance standards for Kindergarten to Advanced High School have been “unpacked” into learning targets that can be used with students, dropped into proficiency scales, and adapted to function in rubrics.

The learning targets in this bank:

- Were developed by Vermont arts educators;
- Are task-neutral, but can be tailored to a specific activity or assessment;
- Are student-friendly;
- Are equitable across contexts and classrooms;
- Are tools for instruction and assessment;
- Help facilitate the awarding of proficiency for classroom-based learning and flexible pathways; and
- Function in a personalized, proficiency-based system.

History of the bank

In the spring of 2016, the Vermont State School Board approved the adoption of the National Core Arts Standards to serve as Vermont’s student learning standards for dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual art. As arts educators began implementing NCAS in their classrooms, a sea change in education was happening across Vermont as the result of the [Education Quality Standards](#) and [Act 77](#). In response, a process for “unpacking” NCAS to improve understanding was developed. This process evolved over time in workshops and virtually. Arts educators from across Vermont have participated in writing, reviewing, and vetting the learning targets that are included in this resource.

What is the purpose of this resource?

The Arts Learning Target Bank serves several purposes for arts educators. Its main purpose is to provide a vetted bank of learning targets, for all VT educators to access as they implement NCAS and transition to personalized, proficiency-based systems in their classrooms.

The Vermont Arts Learning Target Bank also serves to:

- Combat local isolation of arts educators who may be “departments of one;”
- Foster a sense of community for arts educators;
- Build a shared understanding of the standards; and
- Translate language that is intended to be used by teachers into actionable statements that students will understand.

Learning targets from the bank can also be organized into proficiency scales and used as models for writing learning targets that are specific to an activity, unit, or assessment.

What is included in this resource?

Learning targets for all available grade levels—kindergarten to advanced high school— are included in the Arts Learning Target Bank. Missing grade levels and arts disciplines will be added to the bank as they are finalized.

If you are interested in getting involved as this resource grows, contact emily.titterton@vermont.gov.

A thank you to all the Vermont arts educators who have participated in developing the arts learning target bank thus far.

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