
Reopening Schools 2020-21: Fine Arts Supports

Overview Guide for District Leaders and School Administrators

School Reopening Guidance

In June 2020, the Department of Education released the Reopening Schools: Overview Guide for LEAs and an accompanying series of school reopening toolkits, including topics such as Academics, Counseling, Technology, and Well-Being & Mental Health. The department continues to post updates about reopening guidance for districts as new information becomes available. The school reopening toolkits and other reopening resources can be found on the [Reopening Guidance webpage](#).

Fine Arts Supports

District leaders, school administrators and educators are encouraged to explore the **Reopening Schools 2020-21: Best Practices for K-12 Fine Arts Programs** guidance document found on the [Reopening Guidance webpage](#).

This guidance document is intended to support district leaders, school administrators, and fine arts educators in planning for the reopening of schools and guiding effective and informed decision-making for arts education programs that balances health and safety considerations with best practices for standards-based fine arts teaching and learning in a classroom, studio, rehearsal, and performance settings.

This document provides recommendations and suggestions for arts teaching and learning within in the following categories:

Category	Topics
Learning Spaces	Preparing the learning space, using the learning space, and ancillary spaces
Materials and Supplies	Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts
Instructional Delivery	Reimagining fine arts instruction; face-to face, remote, virtual, and hybrid instructional models; transitioning between instructional models; designing engaging learning experiences; and, whole child and well-being.
Student and Teacher Movement	General recommendations and suggestions
Instructional Time and Frequency	General recommendations and suggestions
Program Sustainability	Performances and events, learning experiences, recruiting and retention, professional development, and other considerations.

The guidance document also provides an overview of the initial findings from the NFHS/CBDNA [Performing Arts Aerosol Study](#), suggested resources, and other helpful considerations.

General Recommendations and Considerations

Over fifty national arts and education organizations across the United States joined together to sign the [Arts Education is Essential](#) unified statement outlining three principles. (Fine) arts education:

1. Supports the well-being of students, whether through distance learning or in person.
2. Nurtures the creation of a **welcoming school environment** where students can express themselves in a safe and positive way.
3. Is part of a **well-rounded education** for all students.

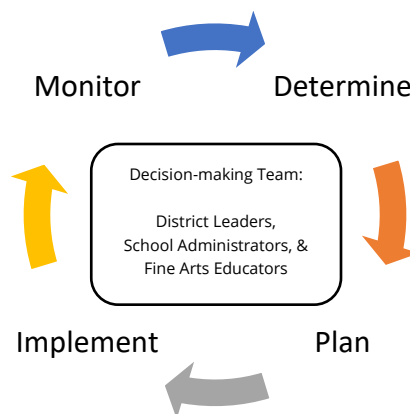
Arts Education in the 2020-21 School Year

Fine arts courses are beneficial for ensuring students' social, emotional, and academic well-being upon returning to school for 2020-21. Fine arts courses can be implemented in a variety of modified and/or virtual settings. Self-awareness, self-efficacy, self-management, and perseverance, social awareness, and relationship skills are central to all arts education activities, no matter the age and ability of the student or the environment in which the learning takes place. These skills are also deeply embedded in the [Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts](#).

Collaborative Decision-Making

District leaders and school administrators are encouraged to involve fine arts teachers in the decision-making process when considering the health and safety, instructional delivery, and programmatic decisions to be made in support of safely reopening schools for the 2020-21 school year. Fine arts teachers have access to content-specific best practices and research that can help guide the decision-making process and alleviate the burden of planning from school officials.

Explore implementing a collaborative decision-making model rooted in continuous improvement practices that encourages the input of fine arts educators.



Suggested Resources

The following suggested resources link to a variety of state- and national-level arts and education organizations and provide specialized, discipline-specific guidance, suggestions, and planning considerations in the fine arts.

Note: Reference to any resource, organization, activity, product, or service does not constitute or imply endorsement by the Tennessee Department of Education.

General Resources

- Tennessee Department of Education | [Link](#)
 - [Reopening Guidance](#)
 - [Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts](#)
 - [State of the Arts/Fine Arts](#)
- State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education | [Link](#)
 - [Arts Education is Essential Statement from Arts and Education Organizations](#)
- Americans for the Arts | [Link](#)
- Tennessee Arts Commission | [Link](#)
- ArtsEd Tennessee | [Link](#)
- ArtsEd New Jersey | [Link](#)
 - [September Ready Fall 2020 Guidance for Arts Education](#) (extensive guidance for fine arts education programs with helpful considerations applicable beyond New Jersey)
- National Federation of High Schools | [Link](#)
 - [Performing Arts Aerosol Study](#)

Health Resources

- Tennessee Department of Health | [Link](#)
 - [TDH COVID-19 Resources for Educational Organizations](#)
 - [TDH Recommendations for the Management of COVID-19 in Schools](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | [Link](#)
 - [Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs](#)
- American Academy of Pediatrics | [Link](#)
 - [COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-Entry](#)

Dance Resources

- National Dance Education Organization | [Link](#)
 - [Link to COVID-19/Reopening Resources](#)
 - [Teaching Dance in Fall 2020](#)
- DanceUSA | [Link](#)
 - [Link to COVID-19/Reopening Resources](#)

Music Resources

- National Association for Music Education | [Link](#)
 - [Link to COVID-19/Reopening Resources](#)
 - [Fall 200 Guidance for Music Education](#)
- American String Teachers Association | [Link](#)
 - [Link to COVID-19/Reopening Resources](#)
 - [Resuming Instruction During COVID-19 Planning Guides](#)
- American Choral Directors Association | [Link](#)
 - [Link to COVID-19/Reopening Resources](#)
 - [COVID-19 Response Committee Report](#)
- College Band Directors National Association | [Link](#)
 - [Link to COVID-19/Reopening Resources](#)
 - [COVID-19 Response Committee Report](#)
- Percussive Arts Society | [Link](#)
 - [Managing COVID-19 Protocols in Administering Percussion Performance Curriculum](#)
- AMRO Music | [Link](#)
 - [Considerations for a Safe Return to the Instrumental Music Classroom](#)

Theatre Resources

- Educational Theatre Association | [Link](#)
 - [Link to COVID-19/Reopening Resources](#)
 - [Recommendations for Reopening School Theatre Programs](#)

Visual Arts Resources

- National Art Education Association | [Link](#)
 - [Link to COVID-19/Reopening Resources](#)
 - [Preparing for School Year 2020-21](#)

Contact Information

With questions about this guidance document or for more information about fine arts programs in Tennessee schools, visit the [State of the Arts webpage](#) or email Arts.Education@tn.gov.