Pre-AP Arts and Maryland State Fine Arts Standards: Alignment Summary

Pre-AP courses focus deeply on a limited number of concepts and skills with the broadest relevance for high school coursework and college and career success. The course framework serves as the foundation of the course and defines these prioritized concepts and skills.

When teaching a Pre-AP course, teachers have purposeful time and space to bring their own voice and lessons into each unit to best meet the needs of their students and address the full range of state standards. This alignment summary demonstrates the deep connections between the Pre-AP Arts Framework and the Maryland State Fine Arts Standards for Dance, Music, Theatre, and Visual Art to support teachers and schools in their planning. Along with the corresponding standards crosswalk, teachers and schools can use this alignment summary when planning and preparing to implement Pre-AP Dance, Music, Theatre, or Visual Arts courses.

Alignment at a Glance

Discipline Highlights

☑️ Overall, there is a strong alignment between the Pre-AP Arts Framework and the Maryland State Fine Arts Standards.

☑️ Across the four disciplines of Dance, Music, Theatre, and Visual Art, the enduring understandings, indicators, and grade-level expectations for nine of the eleven anchor standards are addressed by the Pre-AP Arts Framework.

☑️ The breadth of Anchor Standard 11 is not fully addressed by the Pre-AP Arts Framework, but there is ample time and space for teachers to incorporate the specific indicators and expectations as they plan their courses.

☑️ Both the Maryland State Fine Arts Standards and the Pre-AP Arts Framework were developed with the National Core Arts Standards as a primary resource, which further supports the strong alignment.

Alignment between the Pre-AP Arts Framework and the Maryland State Fine Arts Standards is described as very strong or partial. A very strong alignment is one in which the majority of standards are addressed by the mapped Pre-AP essential knowledge statements (EKs). A partial alignment is one in which the standards are partially addressed by the corresponding Pre-AP EKs. Partial alignment can occur when one framework includes greater specificity or extends beyond the scope of the other framework. Given the focused nature of the Pre-AP course framework, some partial alignments are to be expected.
Alignment at a Glance: Very Strong

MSFAS: Dance
- Presenting
- Responding

MSFAS: Theatre
- Creating
- Presenting
- Responding

MSFAS: Music
- Creating
- Presenting
- Responding

MSFAS: Visual Art
- Creating
- Presenting
- Responding

Summary
The Pre-AP Arts Framework is organized according to five big ideas: observe and interpret, practice and experiment, research and make, reflect and evaluate, and revise and share. This process-oriented focus relates naturally and deeply to the artistic processes and enduring understandings of the Maryland State Fine Arts Standards. These documents reinforce one another, as they have shared goals for students to engage in a full range of artistic processes and practices.

Beyond alignments to the framework, it is also important for educators to turn to the Pre-AP shared principles and Pre-AP Arts areas of focus, which represent the Pre-AP approach to teaching and learning and address skill development and disciplinary practices that cannot be easily captured within a standards crosswalk. In summary, there are ample opportunities for teachers to address the Maryland State Fine Arts Standards with confidence throughout these courses.

Learn more about Pre-AP Arts at preap.org.