**FINE ARTS**

**High-Quality Instructional Materials**

This resource is intended to be used by educators, school, and division leadership to evaluate instructional materials for quality. When lesson plans, unit plans, and other instructional activities are from outside sources, division staff and educators may use and adapt these key features to evaluate the materials. In addition, these key features can be used as a guide for locally developed instructional materials that support the curriculum.

Fine arts instruction in Virginia is guided by the [*Fine Arts Standards of Learning*](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/instruction/fine-arts) in Dance Arts, Music, Theatre Arts, and Visual Arts. The Standards describe the Commonwealth’s expectations for student learning and achievement in grades K-12. The Standards are intended to be developed by the school division into a broader, locally designed curriculum for each course offered.

**Instructional Material:** For context of this resource, instructional materials shall include lesson plans, unit plans, classroom activities, and extensions aligned to curriculum to achieve learning objectives. Links, resources, attachments, and other supplements are considered part of an instructional material being evaluated.

**Key Features**

The following list represents key features of High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) for fine arts disciplines:

1. **Alignment to standards:** Materials align to the content, knowledge, skills, and appropriate cognitive level of the *2020 Fine Arts Standards of Learning* for Dance Arts, Music, Theatre Arts, or Visual Arts.
2. **Assessment:** Materials support assessment methods that align to the learning objectives and support a balanced approach to assessment. Materials employ varied methods and opportunities to collect evidence of student learning and growth.
3. **Health, safety, and accessibility:** The material employs safe and effective practices and can be conducted safely by all students given the available resources, space, materials, and equipment available.
4. **Learning objectives:** Student learning objectives clearly describe knowledge and skills to be achieved through the instructional activities. The objectives are specific, observable, and measurable. Standards-aligned fine arts skills and concepts are the central focus of the learning experiences. If materials include cross-curricular connections, those connections are substantive and meaningful, and support quality instruction in the fine arts discipline.
5. **Lesson content:** Materials include factual, current, and accurate information from reputable sources, which are cited.
6. **Planning and instructional delivery:** Materials support teachers in planning and instructional delivery by including instructional best-practices, foundational vocabulary, content, processes, and skills, and explicit connections to prior and future learning.
7. **Scaffolds, supports, and extensions:** Materials provides exemplary strategies to differentiate instruction for student learning needs including supports and extensions for special education, English-learners, and gifted or advanced learners.
8. **Student expectations:** Exemplars, models, and demonstrations lead to shared understanding of high student expectations.

**Sample Fine Arts HQIM Evaluation Tool**

Title of material being evaluated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Criteria** | **Meets** | **Partly Meets** | **Does Not Meet** | **Note or Potential Improvement** |
| Alignment to standards |  |  |  |  |
| Assessment |  |  |  |  |
| Health, safety, and accessibility |  |  |  |  |
| Learning objectives |  |  |  |  |
| Lesson content |  |  |  |  |
| Planning and instructional delivery |  |  |  |  |
| Scaffolds, supports, and extensions |  |  |  |  |
| Student expectations |  |  |  |  |

# Additional Look-Fors

These items may not be addressed in every instructional material, but would be an added benefit to instructional materials included throughout the curriculum.

The materials include the following (check all that apply):

* Career and workplace awareness or readiness connections.
* Connections to life outside of the classroom through “real-world application.”
* Current and emerging technologies for deeper learning.
* Diverse historical and cultural resources.
* Integrated standards in the five SOL strands (Creative Thinking; Critical Thinking and Communication; History, Culture, and Citizenship; Innovation in the Arts; and Technique and Application). Standards are not taught in isolation without context or connection.
* Materials include meaningful opportunities for student inquiry and voice, placing the student at the center of the learning experiences.
* Meaningful connections to current or past Virginia-specific arts and culture.

**Reviewer Notes, Comments, or Recommended Action:**