

Connecticut Arts Administrators Association

Fall Reopening Statement

The Connecticut Arts Administrators Association is an organization that provides resources and Professional Development opportunities specifically for Arts Education leaders throughout the state of Connecticut. Throughout this period of challenges in our schools associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have consistently reminded and encouraged the decision makers in our educational institutions of the importance, relevance, and positive effects of arts education in the lives of all of our children, regardless of the mode of instructional delivery ([Connecticut Arts Administrators Guidance Document](#)). Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-16b, mandates all public schools shall include the arts as taught by legally qualified teachers. Equity and Access to the Arts is a significant factor in the socio-emotional well being of all of our children.

Our primary concern is, and always has been, the safety of all of our students and teachers in the arts and all content areas. We have provided the Connecticut State Department of Education with a summary of preliminary results of the international [University of Colorado study](#), and recommendations of the [National Art Education Association \(NAEA\)](#), [National Association for Music Education \(NAfME\)](#), [American Choral Directors Association \(ACDA\)](#), [National Federation of High School Associations \(NFHS\) Guidance on Returning to Marching Band](#), and [New York State School Music Association \(NYSSMA\) Guidance for School Ensembles](#).

Although these organizations have provided us with some preliminary considerations, we understand that each district, school, classroom, teaching space, and individual teachers and students have challenges that are unique and that the considerations of the organizations listed above may reduce, but do not completely eliminate exposure to COVID-19. This pertains to any classroom environment, and is not just limited to music and arts instruction.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential for Connecticut schools to maintain challenging and rigorous programs of study in the arts across all grade levels. However, in the event of the full reopening of schools in the fall of 2020, all instruction should consider transformational instructional practices. For example, a focus on music literacy ensures a continuation of performance preparation whether in smaller groupings or solo work. As detailed in the [Connecticut Arts Standards](#), meaningful Arts learning equally includes instruction in the Artistic Processes of Creating, Responding, Performing, and Connecting.

We have creative, talented and passionate Arts teachers and leaders in Connecticut who care deeply for their students and have confidence that they will provide safe, alternate modes of instruction and opportunities for children to experience the many joys that are unique to participation in the arts.

Sincerely,

Connecticut Arts Administrators Association