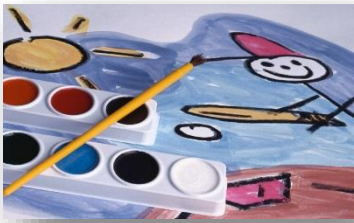


The Arts in Kentucky Public Education
The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) fully support education in the arts as an important part of a child’s overall education. Research shows that involvement in the arts is associated with gains in math, reading, verbal skills, critical thinking (the ability to analyze and/or evaluate information from various sources) and cognitive ability (the mental processes of perception, memory, judgment, and reasoning).



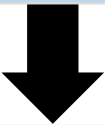
However, it is important to clearly understand what arts education does and does not mean in terms of graduation, college/career-readiness, and professional opportunities for students in Kentucky.



Education in the Arts

All Kentucky public schools are required to provide students with the access and opportunity to engage in strong arts programs in grades K-12. This may be done through a specific arts class or the arts may be embedded in other disciplines as long as the content is aligned to the minimum arts and humanities standards included in [Kentucky’s Academic Standards](#).

Schools are held accountable for their arts program offerings through the Arts and Humanities Program Review.

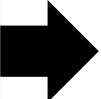


Career Pathway

In Kentucky, a student may elect to complete a well-defined sequence of related classes in a particular area of study that incorporates rigorous academic and career/technical coursework leading to a postsecondary degree and industry-recognized certification or license.

There are several arts-related pathways that include a recognized industry endorsement or certification and are currently available to students. Additionally, KDE is considering how various arts classes may be incorporated into other career pathways.

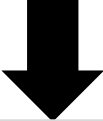
Completing coursework alone in a career pathway does not mean a student is career-ready.



Additional Arts Pathways Pilots

The Kentucky Department of Education piloted several potential arts career pathways in the 2014-15 school year. However, because they did not result in a recognized industry endorsement or certification that would lead directly to a professional job in Kentucky, they did not meet the requirement for career-readiness under the state accountability system.

A draft implementation document was mistakenly posted on the KDE website and has been removed.



Career Readiness

Career Readiness is the level of preparation a high school graduate needs in order to proceed to the next step in a chosen career, whether that is postsecondary coursework, industry certification, or entry into the workplace.

According to the Association of Career and Technical Education, career readiness includes core academic skills and the ability to apply those skills to concrete situations in order to function in the workplace and in routine daily activities; employability skills, such as critical thinking and responsibility, that are essential in any career area; and technical, job-specific skills related to a specific career pathway.

A student must meet the [indicators](#) for Career-Ready Academic AND Career-Ready Technical to be considered career-ready and earn credit for the high school under the Unbridled Learning Accountability System.

College Readiness

College Readiness is the level of preparation a first-time college student needs in order to succeed in a credit-bearing course at a postsecondary institution. Success is defined as completing entry-level courses at a level of understanding and proficiency that prepares the student for subsequent courses.

Since most arts jobs in Kentucky require a postsecondary education, a student pursuing this career should be encouraged to achieve college-readiness.

A student must meet one of the [indicators](#) for College Readiness to be considered college-ready and earn credit for the school under the Unbridled Learning Accountability System.



The Arts and Graduation

Recognizing the importance of the arts to a well-rounded education, the KBE requires that all high school students take a minimum of a one credit course on the History and Appreciation of Visual And Performing Arts (or another arts course which incorporates this content and is based on Kentucky’s Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities or a specialized arts course based on the student’s Individual Learning Plan) as a state requirement for graduation from high school.

Districts may set requirements for graduation that go beyond the [minimum state graduation requirements](#), such as all students must be college/and or career-ready; however, it is up to the district to define what this means and how the requirement is met at the local level.

A student shall be considered college/career-ready for state accountability purposes only by meeting the state indicators for college/career-readiness.

