

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and Readiness Competencies in Dance:

The dance subcommittee embedded 21st century skills, school readiness, and postsecondary and workforce readiness skills into the draft revised standards utilizing descriptions developed by Coloradans and vetted by educators, policymakers, and citizens.

### **Colorado's Description of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are the synthesis of the essential abilities students must apply in our rapidly changing world. Today's students need a repertoire of knowledge and skills that are more diverse, complex, and integrated than any previous generation. Dance is inherently demonstrated in each of Colorado 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, as follows:

Critical Thinking and Reasoning – Dance is a discipline requiring that one create while thinking intensively and critically. The art form encourages students to define and solve artistic problems with insight, reason, and technical proficiency. The individual's curiosity teams with critical thinking to break boundaries, research, and enrich the imagination. The idea is to contribute something new to society, and find personal fulfillment.

Information Literacy – The discipline of dance equips students with tools and the self-discipline to organize and interpret a multitude of resources. A dance student with information literacy skills can effectively analyze primary and secondary sources, detect bias, use learning tools that include technology, and clearly communicate thoughts using sound reasoning.

Collaboration – Dance is about collaboration, cooperation, creative problem-solving, teamwork, excellence, and reflection. It encourages ensemble work and applauds success. Students of dance are involved with constructive interaction with others; display patience, fair play, and honesty; respect differences; and take turns and collaborate to strengthen the learning process.

Self-Direction – Dance requires a productive disposition, self-discipline, initiative, curiosity, and dedication. This involves monitoring and assessing one's thinking and persisting in search of patterns, relationships, and cause and effect. Personal integrity helps students to learn to think beyond the immediate to see worthy objectives. Through dance, students connect with one another and come to appreciate rich and diverse cultures, beliefs, and societies.

Invention – Dance is continually changing and reinventing itself. It is the physical expression of an idea. "The arts are among the resources through which individuals re-create themselves. The work of art is a process that culminates in a new art form. That art form is the recreation of the individual. Recreation is a form of re-creation. The arts are among the most powerful means of promoting recreation." (Elliott Eisner 2002)