



## I. Dance education for all individuals

- a. The NDA believes that every public and private school student (pre-k through higher education) should be provided opportunities to participate in dance education, ideally through the fine arts programs and the physical education curriculum. Dance education also may be offered through integrated classroom instruction, extracurricular activities, or other in- and out-of-school programs (e.g., companies, teams, and clubs).
- b. The NDA recognizes the important role of early childhood education for children from birth through age eight. The Association urges the inclusion of dance education within early childhood education programming. Content and skills learned through dance activities contribute to the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs of children. This educational process can prepare the students for more advanced learning at elementary grade levels.

- c. The NDA recognizes its role in educating audiences, as well as dance professionals, about developmentally appropriate instructional programming, dance choreography, dance styles, and costuming for young children.



- d. The NDA supports the development of dance education programs and appropriate practices for all students with disabilities in least restrictive environments. The programming and practices should be jointly determined by the dance educator and/or physical educator who has specialized dance training, the classroom teacher, other support staff, and parents.
- e. The NDA believes there must be appropriate educational opportunities for gifted, talented, and highly creative/interested students. Dance educators need specific training to: identify and select students that should be involved in the highly specialized learning activities, plan a challenging curriculum, assess student learning, and mentor students in making good choices for future development.

- f. The NDA supports the role of dance education within a comprehensive fine arts program. Artistic expression is fundamental to an individual's aesthetic, kinesthetic, intellectual, social, and emotional development. The arts promote cultural understanding, a sense of community, problem solving, and critical thinking skills.
- g. The NDA supports the role of dance education within a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate physical education curriculum. Quality dance experiences contribute to enjoyable physical activity and movement. Daily physical activity is essential and participation should be encouraged throughout life, regardless of abilities.
- h. The NDA recognizes the role of dance education to provide the most current information and guidance about dance and dance-related career opportunities for interested individuals.
- i. The NDA recognizes the vital role that dance studios and other community-based dance programs can have in promoting quality dance education. These programs can offer additional opportunities outside of the traditional school settings for children, youth, and adults to strengthen their physical, mental, social, emotional capabilities; value communities; develop aesthetic awareness; and experience creative and artistic excellence.

Approved by the NDA Board of Directors, March 28, 2011

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