North Carolina Department of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENTS

Arts Proficiency Endorsement

As of 2024, the Arts Proficiency Endorsement is a part of State Board of Education policy, Grad 007.

- Students in North Carolina public schools and public charter schools may earn one or more endorsements on their high school diploma. These endorsements indicate that students have completed specific course concentrations preparing them to be ready for careers and/or college.
- Students may earn more than one diploma endorsement. Students are not required to earn an endorsement in order to receive a diploma.
- Based on State Board of Education policy (GRAD-007), the implementation of the diploma endorsements is required for all Local Education Agency high schools. This policy is optional for charter school boards of directors.

ENDORSEMENT POLICY:

a. The student shall complete a minimum of four NCSCOS arts courses.
b. The student shall earn an unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher in each arts credit.
c. The student shall complete a minimum of 40 hours of arts-related extracurricular activities.
    i. The student shall participate in an arts-related extracurricular activity approved by the local board of education.
    ii. The student shall complete all of the required hours outside of instructional hours.
    iii. The student shall not receive any course credit for participation in the activity.
    iv. In accordance with State Board guidance, the student shall document the hours on the form provided to local boards of education.

NOTE: The NC-SIS will not be computing the Arts Endorsement this year. LEAs and others may use local processes to award the Arts Endorsement. It will not appear on the transcript this year.

NCDPI SUPPORT AVAILABLE:

- Extracurricular Activities Form
- Course Guidance
- Extracurricular Activities Guidance
- Office of Academic Standards External Implementation Guide
- Main Website: High School Diploma Endorsements

ARTS PROFICIENCY ENDORSEMENT COURSE GUIDANCE

In an effort to promote equity and celebrate the creative commitment of our student artists, the list of courses that satisfy the Arts Education Diploma Endorsement is being expanded. Effective beginning in the 2025–26 school year, the following courses will now count toward fulfilling the four-course endorsement requirement:

- All high school course codes beginning with 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57
- All Advanced Placement (5A), International Baccalaureate (5I), and Cambridge (5V) arts courses

The main change for 2025–26 is the inclusion of local electives, especially Technical Theatre and General Music courses at the Intermediate or Advanced levels, as well as AP Art History.

This guidance changed on 8.14.2025. Please see the entire memo at:
8.14.25 Announcement to Expand Course Eligibility for Endorsement

ARTS-RELATED EXTRACURRICULAR GUIDANCE

Activities must be approved by the local school board. Local boards are encouraged to work with local district arts education leaders to curate an approved list of activities.

- Examples that would satisfy this requirement are creating, presenting, or responding to art; rehearsing for class at home; drawing in sketchbooks at home; participating in community-organized arts activities like community theatre or community band; or participating in all-state activities for which they are honored to participate.
- Additional examples of arts exposure that would satisfy this requirement are visiting an art museum, attending a concert or performance, or interviewing a local artist.

The hours are **completed beyond instructional hours** (i.e. the hours during an arts education class do not count towards the 40 hours)

- Though “Extracurricular activities” are included in the law, (2)b clarifies that the student must complete all required outside of classroom instructional hours.

The student **does not receive any course credit** for participation in the activity.

- This means participation in recitals, concerts, performances, galleries, and other extra- and co-curricular activities must either;
    - Not be counted in the forty hours if graded.
    - Be included as an extracurricular activity for which students do not receive course credit.

Note: The non-graded extracurricular rehearsal or preparation hours for a graded event may count toward the 40 hours.

In effect for the 2024-2025 School Year: In order to satisfy the Arts Diploma Endorsement requirement, current tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students will be permitted to apply hours from retroactive activities they participated in during their high school enrollment, provided the following conditions are met:

1. Evidence of Participation: Students must provide convincing and verifiable documentation demonstrating their attendance or active participation in the activity.
2. Non-Curricular Activity: The activity must satisfy all other requirements regarding eligibility put forth in the policy.

DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURES

Local public school units will establish procedures for the review of criteria as well as the process for awarding endorsements. Diploma seals continue to be a local process, just like all of the other endorsements. An LEA may order their own using the images provided by NCDPI or may order seals from NCDPI Graphics. To access the seals, visit the Endorsements webpage. Seals will be updated by October 30, 2024.

ARTS-RELATED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY FORM

STUDENT NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____

ACTIVITY TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	HOURS	DATE	SUPERVISOR NAME & CONTACT INFO

**Schools/Districts may choose to create and utilize an alternate/digital form if it has the required components: activity name, date, hours, and supervisor contact information for the activity.*

I attest that the information in the above form is complete and accurate.

Student Signature_____Date_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____Date_____