

## Your Question:

1. What is the status of academic standards for music education in each state?
2. What are the subject area testing requirements to become a music educator?

## Our Response:

AEP staff members used information from state education agency websites to answer these questions. An analysis of the information found the following:

1. Of 50 states and the District of Columbia, 37 — or 73% — have arts standards aligned to the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS). Five of those states — **Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, New Mexico** and **Rhode Island** — have adopted the NCAS outright.
2. **Pennsylvania's** arts standards are the oldest, last updated in 2002. **Hawaii's** were updated in 2022, with **Ohio's** standards in draft form and scheduled to be board approved.
3. All states require a content knowledge test for licensure except **Iowa**. 35 states and the **District of Columbia** require a Praxis II test, and the remaining 14 states have a state-specific test, usually offered through National Evaluation Series.
4. Of the 35 states and the **District of Columbia** that use Praxis II:
  - 21 require Music: Content Knowledge.
  - 7 require Music: Content and Instruction.
  - 3 require Music: Content Knowledge/Instrumental and General Knowledge/Vocal and General Knowledge.
  - 2 require Music: Instrumental and General Knowledge/Vocal and General Knowledge.
  - 2 require Music: Content and Instruction/Instrumental and General Knowledge/Vocal and General Knowledge.
  - **Alaska** requires Music: Content Knowledge/Content and Instruction.
5. In addition to a content knowledge test, some states also require a test for pedagogy. These states require edTPA Music, Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching or a state-specific test. Some states — e.g. **Maryland** — allow candidates to choose between edTPA and Praxis.

The table below summarizes standards and licensure information for each state.

State	Standards			Licensure
	Link to standards	Aligned to NCAS	Date of most recent update	Certification assessment requirements – Music (content knowledge)
Alabama	<a href="#">Arts Education Courses of Study</a>	Yes	2017	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
Alaska	<a href="#">Alaska Arts Standards</a>	Yes	2016	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge/ Content and Instruction
Arizona	<a href="#">Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts</a>	Yes	2015	Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment Subject Knowledge: Music
Arkansas	<a href="#">Arkansas Fine Arts Academic Standards</a>	Yes	2020	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge/Instrumental and General Knowledge/Vocal and General Knowledge
California	<a href="#">California Arts Standards for Public Schools</a>	Yes	2019	California Subject Examinations for Teachers: Music
Colorado	<a href="#">Colorado Academic Standards</a>	No	2022	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
Connecticut	<a href="#">National Core Arts Standards</a>	Yes	2016	Praxis — Music: Content and Instruction
Delaware	<a href="#">National Core Arts Standards</a>	Yes	2016	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
District of Columbia	<a href="#">DCPS Arts Framework</a>	No	2016	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
Florida	<a href="#">Next Generation Sunshine State Standards</a>	No	2010	Florida Teacher Certification Examination: Music K-12
Georgia	<a href="#">Fine Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence</a>	Yes	2017	Georgia Assessment for the Certification of Educators: Music
Hawaii	<a href="#">National Core Arts Standards</a>	Yes	2022	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge/Instrumental and General Knowledge/Vocal and General Knowledge
Idaho	<a href="#">Idaho Content Standards</a>	Yes	2015	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
Illinois	<a href="#">Illinois Arts Learning Standards</a>	Yes	2016	Illinois Licensure Testing System: Music
Indiana	<a href="#">Indiana Academic Standards</a>	Yes	2018	Praxis — Music: Instrumental and General Knowledge/Vocal and General Knowledge
Iowa	<a href="#">Iowa Fine Arts Standards</a>	Yes	2017	None — Testing requirement for in-state candidates waived in HF2081, signed into law on 6/13/2022.
Kansas	<a href="#">Kansas Curricular Standards for Music</a>	Yes	2015	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
Kentucky	<a href="#">Kentucky Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts</a>	Yes	2015	Praxis — Music: Content and Instruction/Instrumental and General Knowledge/Vocal and General Knowledge
Louisiana	<a href="#">K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for the Arts</a>	No	2004	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge

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<b>Maine</b>	<a href="#">Maine Learning Results</a>	No	2007	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
<b>Maryland</b>	<a href="#">Maryland State Fine Arts Standards</a>	Yes	2016	Praxis — Music: Content and Instruction
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<a href="#">Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework</a>	Yes	2019	Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure: Music — Vocal/Instrumental/General
<b>Michigan</b>	<a href="#">Michigan Merit Curriculum</a>	No	2011	Michigan Test for Teacher Certification: Music Education
<b>Minnesota</b>	<a href="#">Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Arts Education</a>	Yes	2018	Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations: Instrumental Classroom Music and Vocal Classroom Music (K-12)
<b>Mississippi</b>	<a href="#">Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Arts Learning Standards for Music</a>	Yes	2017	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
<b>Missouri</b>	<a href="#">Missouri Arts Learning Standards for Music</a>	Yes	2019	Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments: Music — Instrumental and Vocal
<b>Montana</b>	<a href="#">Montana Content Standards for Arts</a>	Yes	2016	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge Praxis subject test is one option. Other options are GPA, student-teaching portfolio or combination of degree, out-of-state license and experience.
<b>Nebraska</b>	<a href="#">Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Fine Arts: Music</a>	No	2014	Praxis — Music: Content and Instruction
<b>Nevada</b>	<a href="#">Nevada Academic Content Standards for Fine Arts: Music</a>	Yes	2017	Praxis — Music: Content and Instruction/Instrumental and General Knowledge/Vocal and General Knowledge
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<a href="#">New Hampshire Arts Model Competencies</a>	Yes	2015	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
<b>New Jersey</b>	<a href="#">New Jersey Student Learning Standards</a>	Yes	2020	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
<b>New Mexico</b>	<a href="#">National Core Arts Standards</a>	Yes	2018	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
<b>New York</b>	<a href="#">New York State Learning Standards for Music</a>	Yes	2017	New York State Teacher Certification Exam: Music Content Specialty Test
<b>North Carolina</b>	<a href="#">North Carolina Essential Standards</a>	No	2016	Praxis — Music: Content and Instruction
<b>North Dakota</b>	<a href="#">North Dakota Music Content Standards</a>	Yes	2019	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
<b>Ohio</b>	<a href="#">Ohio Learning Standards for Fine Arts: Music</a>	Yes, 2022 draft fine arts; draft standards	2012	Ohio Assessment for Educators: Music Content Assessment

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		are aligned to NCAS		
Oklahoma	<a href="#">Oklahoma Academic Standards for Fine Arts</a>	Yes	2020	Praxis — Music: Instrumental and General Knowledge/Vocal and General Knowledge
Oregon	<a href="#">Oregon Arts Standards</a>	Yes	2015	Oregon Educator Licensure Assessments: Music
Pennsylvania	<a href="#">Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities</a>	No	2002	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
Rhode Island	<a href="#">National Core Arts Standards</a>	Yes	2017	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
South Carolina	<a href="#">South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency</a>	Yes	2017	Praxis — Music: Content and Instruction
South Dakota	<a href="#">South Dakota Fine Arts Standards</a>	Yes	2015	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge/Instrumental and General Knowledge/Vocal and General Knowledge
Tennessee	<a href="#">Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts</a>	Yes	2018	Praxis — Music: Content and Instruction
Texas	<a href="#">Fine Arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills</a>	No	2013	Texas Examinations of Educator Standards: Music EC-12
Utah	<a href="#">Utah Core Arts Standards for Fine Arts</a>	Yes	2016	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
Vermont	<a href="#">Vermont Arts Learning Targets</a>	Yes	2019	Praxis — Music: Content and Instruction
Virginia	<a href="#">Virginia Standards of Learning Documents for Music</a>	No	2020	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
Washington	<a href="#">Washington State K-12 Music Learning Standards</a>	Yes	2017	Washington Educator Skills Test — Endorsement: General and Instrumental Music
West Virginia	<a href="#">West Virginia Standards for Arts Education</a>	No	2018	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
Wisconsin	<a href="#">Wisconsin Standards for Music Education</a>	Yes	2019	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge
Wyoming	<a href="#">Wyoming Fine &amp; Performing Arts Content &amp; Performance Standards</a>	No	2013	Praxis — Music: Content Knowledge