Enduring Understandings are Big Ideas that Offer Life-long Inspiration

The CA Arts Standards provide enduring understandings and essential questions that encourage student exploration of the full dimensions of arts learning.

Organizing learning and thinking around big ideas enables greater transfer of information and skills, promoting the activation of prior knowledge and student ability to grasp new information and skills.

**Three examples of enduring understandings and essential questions include:**

**Dance**
Enduring Understanding: “Dance performance is an interaction between performer, production elements, and audience that heightens and amplifies artistic expression.”

*Essential Question: “How does a dancer heighten artistry in a public performance?”*

**Music**
Enduring Understanding: “Musicians’ creative choices are influenced by their expertise, context, and expressive intent.”

*Essential Question: “How do musicians make creative decisions?”*

**Theatre**
Enduring Understanding: “Theatre artists allow awareness of interrelationships between self and others to influence and inform their work.”

*Essential Question: “What happens when theatre artists foster understanding between self and others through critical awareness, social responsibility, and the exploration of empathy?”*

The CA Arts Standards contain enduring understandings and essential questions for each discipline.

*California Arts Education Framework for California Public Schools, Chapter 2*

How can enduring understandings and essential questions guide student explorations with community and cultural assets?