



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools  
**FROM:** Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer  
**DATE:** May 21, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Next Generation Accountability— Measuring Arts Access

Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System is founded on the principle that a broader set of indicators can provide a more complete picture of a school or district and encourage the provision of a well-rounded education for Connecticut students. To further this goal, Indicator 12 – *Arts Access* – was included in the accountability system; it serves as an “access” metric that evaluates the extent to which students in high school participate in at least one arts course during the school year.

This indicator uses data collected through the Teacher-Course-Student (TCS) system. Schools and districts can earn up to 50 points based on the percentage of students in Grades 9 through 12 participating in at least one arts course. Currently, an arts course is any dance, theater, music, or visual arts course that is assigned to the Fine and Performing Arts area (i.e., Subject Area 5 in the [Secondary Course Code List](#)). Since initial implementation of the accountability system, many stakeholders have requested the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to expand the types of courses that are considered as arts courses for purposes of Indicator 12.

The Next Generation Accountability System was developed with extensive feedback from district and school leaders. The CSDE remains committed to this ongoing input from stakeholders and will balance requests for change with availability of high-quality data and a need to ensure meaningful comparisons across years.

The CSDE is seeking input on the potential specific courses in the secondary course list that:

- are not in *Subject Area 5*;
- are aligned to [Connecticut's arts standards](#);
- provide students with access to the arts; and
- should be considered as an arts course toward Indicator 12.

Please submit your responses using the [online survey](#) by Friday, June 7, 2019. Please share this with staff in your district who are familiar with secondary course offerings and the accountability system.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-713-6888 or [Ajit.Gopalakrishnan@ct.gov](mailto:Ajit.Gopalakrishnan@ct.gov).

Thank you.

cc: Teacher-Course-Student Contacts  
District Testing Administrators