

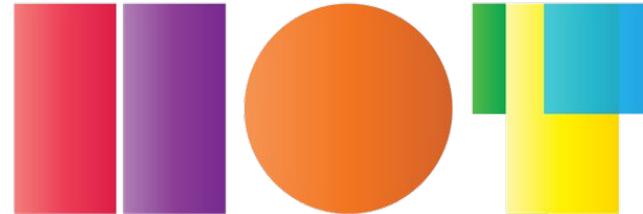
CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ARTS HIGHER ORDER THINKING APPROACH

CONTINUUM OF PRACTICE ©



Department of Economic and
Community Development

Office Of The Arts



HIGHER ORDER THINKING SCHOOLS™
strong arts arts integration democratic practice

HOT SCHOOLS IS A PROGRAM OF THE CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ARTS

ABOUT Connecticut Office of the Arts HIGHER ORDER THINKING SCHOOLS

Higher Order Thinking (HOT) Schools, initially a program of the Connecticut Office of the Arts, is a community of practice that networks and develops entities interested in teaching and learning in, about, and through the arts using the HOT APPROACH. HOT practices and strategies stimulate student curiosity, ignite their sense of wonder, empower students so they feel invested in their school and their learning, and steer students toward a journey of lifelong learning. Students enjoy numerous outlets for expression and for reinforcement of the intrinsic value of their thoughts.

The APPROACH builds higher order thinking skills and prepares students to be successful learners and contributors in the 21st Century through strong arts, arts integration, and democratic practice. In schools using the HOT APPROACH, the arts are rigorous academic subjects, each with its own sequential curriculum that conveys knowledge not learned through other academic disciplines. Teachers work collaboratively to structure interdisciplinary curricula that promote deep learning of subject matter, higher order thinking, creativity and teamwork by strategically linking learning in the arts to learning across the curriculum.

The HOT APPROACH is an innovative delivery system that provides teachers, teaching artists, administrators, parents, and arts organization educators vital professional development, resources, tools and strategies to develop, deepen and expand effective practices in arts education, arts integration, school culture change, and leadership development. Developed over time in Connecticut's urban, suburban and rural schools, these best practices are applicable to Pre K-12 schools statewide.

Interested schools participate in ongoing professional development and employ the HOT APPROACH to advance teaching and learning along a continuum from Arts Access, to Arts Connections and Correlations, to Arts Integration.



Connecticut Office of the Arts

Continuum of Practice

The Continuum is a guide that helps schools identify their current depth of practice toward incorporating the HOT APPROACH and is used to guide development of a plan to advance along the continuum from:

- **Arts Access**, where schools provide students with exposure to the arts through field trips, school or classroom visits, performance(s), “informance(s),” and/or lecture demonstrations by artists or artist groups. To
- **Arts Connections and Correlations**, which extend Arts Access experiences and begin to make connections between the arts experience and curriculum. To
- **Arts Integration**, which are sequential arts learning experiences that weave ideas and concepts between and among arts and non-arts disciplines, effectively advancing knowledge and/or skills in an arts discipline while concurrently advancing knowledge and/or skills in other disciplines.

Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) recognizes the value of each point on the Continuum and that varied conditions impact a school’s place on the continuum and its desire and capacity to progress along it. Two key ingredients toward advancing are staff commitment and administrative support. COA believes any school can advance along the continuum if these two conditions are present.

COA offers Arts Learning Grants open to all Connecticut Pre K-12 schools interested in providing these arts learning experiences for their students

Connecticut Office of the Arts

Continuum of Practice



Access

Exposure to arts through field trips, school or classroom visits, performance(s), “informance(s),” and/or lecture demonstrations by artists or artist groups.

May or may not include a study guide or cultural or academic connections highlighted during the presentation/experience.

How To Advance: Begin to define goals for arts learning and arts experiences for school community.

Explore different opportunities in various art forms; engage a HOT Coach to develop a progression plan; participate in HOT APPROACH professional development. Begin to build support for arts and arts-integrated learning.



Connection Correlation

Extension of Arts Access experiences through a pre- or post-event study guide, workshops, or other resources provided by the service provider/community partner, or cultural or academic connections highlighted throughout the event.

Short-term residencies (2-5 visits, with the same group of learners) with defined program goals and objectives, and evaluation component. Includes some planning between artist/org. and school.

Goals and plan in place (and supported by administration) to advance along the HOT Continuum of Practice.

How To Advance: Participate in HOT PD; begin to make connections/correlations between disciplines; begin to address Common Core State Standards and learning goals in arts and non-arts classrooms. Strengthens support for arts and arts-integrated learning.



Integration

Sequential arts learning experiences that weave ideas and concepts between and among arts and non-arts disciplines.

Long term residencies (10+ visits, with the same group of learners) include collaborative planning and reflection process between the service provider and user that incorporates documenting and collecting evidence of impact throughout.

In-school unit development integrates local arts and cultural resources as a natural component of teaching and learning (global classroom); instructional practice effectively advances knowledge and/or skills in an arts discipline while concurrently advancing knowledge and/or skills in other disciplines.

Instruction aligns with Common Core State Standards and National Core Arts Standards adopted by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

How To Advance: Continued participation in HOT PD and leadership development; share best practices with other educators. Deepen partnerships, community and district support for arts and arts integrated learning.



HIGHER ORDER THINKING SCHOOLS™
strong arts arts integration democratic practice

HOT SCHOOLS IS A PROGRAM OF THE CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ARTS