

Responsibilities of a Dance Educator | Teacher



Finding Common Ground
Among America's Diverse Dance Communities

Whether you identify yourself as a teacher or an educator is a personal choice. The terminology can vary, but the role is the same. All teachers have responsibilities to their students, colleagues, students' parents, the community, and themselves.

Teachers' responsibilities to students

- Acting as a mentor or role model
- Providing a safe environment—physical, emotional, and psychological
- Showing respect for all students through
 - a fair and equitable distribution of time
 - the use of encouraging language in offering positive reinforcement, constructive criticism, and acknowledgment of achievements
- Offering challenges that will raise them to the next level
- Encouraging them to progress to next level and/or teacher
- Making everyone, regardless of ability level, feel included
- Providing appropriate discipline
- Engaging in an appropriate relationship
- Delivering the best possible age-appropriate skills, content, and materials (including movement, terminology, music, choreography, technique, and historical influences)
- Modeling a healthy lifestyle
- Establishing clear expectations for behavior and attire
- Offering criteria for being respectful, appropriate audience members

Teachers' responsibilities to colleagues

- Offering mutual respect
- Giving support
- Engaging in open communication
- Interacting in a non-threatening, collegial manner
- Using diplomacy in interpersonal interactions
- Behaving in a professional, ethical way

Teachers' responsibilities to parents

- Communicating clearly and concisely about expectations regarding
 - appropriate and respectful attire
 - compliance with school policies
- Using multiple modalities for communication
- Creating a safe environment for the students
- Delivering quality instruction by well-qualified teachers
- Offering criteria for being respectful, appropriate audience members
- Providing opportunities to view classroom instruction
- Introducing parents to their child's instructors

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Teachers' responsibilities to the public sphere

- Educating the community through performances at public events, arts festivals, etc.
- Demonstrating professional conduct as a positive reflection on the dance-education field
- Offering criteria for being respectful, appropriate audience members

Teachers' responsibilities to themselves

- Engaging in continuing education and professional development activities
- Gaining leadership through membership in local and state organizations
- Maintaining personal health (proper rest, nutrition, stress management)
- Giving themselves permission to profit from their expertise
- Fostering a self-concept as a valuable person and educator
- Believing that they can command respect and authority because of experience, training, education, and affiliation

Benefits of Membership in a Dance Organization is created and endorsed by the following UNITY members.

- Andrea Rizzo Foundation
- Chicago National Association of Dance Masters
- Creations by Ciccì
- Dance Alliance of Rhode Island and Environs, Inc. Dance Masters of Wisconsin
- Dance Teachers' Club of Boston with the American Society
- Dancewear Corner
- Florida Dance Masters
- National Dance Education Organization
- National Registry of Dance Educators Inc.
- New York Dance Education Association
- Perform Group LLC
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- Southern Association of Dance Masters
- Tennessee Association of Dance
- United Dance Merchants of America

UNITY VISION

We envision a nation in which dance is a respected and integral part of life for all, and where the dance profession actively and collectively contributes to education and participation in Dance.

Learn more about UNITY: www.unitydance.org

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