



Distance Learning Opportunity to Learn Standards

*Curriculum and Scheduling,
Staffing, Materials and
Equipment, and Facilities*

**Created by the National Association for Music
Education (NAfME) Council of Music Program Leaders**

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NAfME is grateful to these individuals for their effort and expertise
in creating these standards.

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**National Association
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Distance Learning **ALL GRADES**

Distance Learning Opportunity to Learn Standards

A task force comprised of members of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Council of Music Program Leaders (NCMPL) convened in 2020 with the charge of creating Distance Learning Opportunity to Learn Standards to supplement NAfME's existing Opportunity to Learn Standards (bit.ly/OpportunitytoLearnStandards2020). The current OTL Standards were created by the NCMPL in 2014 to serve as a resource for teachers, teacher-educators, administrators, and school boards, providing information on what is needed to create and support effective music education programs in America's schools. Guided by the 2014 Music Standards, OTL Standards can result in the promotion of high-quality music education for all students. The new Distance Learning OTL Standards specifically address what is needed at the basic and quality levels to support exemplary teaching and learning in the ever-expanding distance learning format within the field of music education.

CURRICULUM AND SCHEDULING

Curriculum

BASIC

- DL 1.** Curriculum modifications and appropriate learning applications are provided for distance learning in music.

QUALITY

- DL 2.** Multiple curriculum modifications and content-specific learning applications are provided for distance learning in music.

Scheduling

BASIC

- DL 3.** All scheduled music courses from PreK-12 in the master schedule are maintained and continue to be offered regardless of the instructional learning model (e.g., distance, hybrid, full-time face-to-face).
- DL 4.** Adequate planning time is provided for all teachers, whether assigned to face-to-face or remote teaching or both.

QUALITY

- DL 5.** All scheduled PreK-12 music courses are prioritized to maximize equitable access in the master schedule and continue to be offered regardless of the instructional learning model (e.g., distance, hybrid, full-time face-to-face).

STAFFING

Teacher Qualifications & Load

BASIC

- DL 6.** Music teachers are teaching within their content area during distance learning. They are not teaching outside their licensed areas or providing interventions to students in nonmusic subjects.

QUALITY

- DL 7.** Music teachers are teaching at the level (elementary school/middle school/high school) that they were previously assigned to teach during face-to-face teaching.
- DL 8.** Music teachers are teaching the students and subject areas that they were previously assigned to teach (e.g., middle school choir).
- DL 9.** Additional music support staff are hired to support music classes when students are learning face-to-face and virtually during simultaneous teaching.
- DL 10.** Teachers who are contractually hired for a specific job should not be expected to teach in addition to the contractual position.

Professional Development & Evaluation

BASIC

- DL 11.** Music teachers are provided with content-specific professional development that teaches them instructional models for virtual music instruction.
- DL 12.** Music teachers are provided with professional development in the use of technology (e.g., hardware, software applications), including music-specific applications and content.

QUALITY

- DL 13.** Music teachers are provided with professional development on instructional models and technology that are essential for distance learning, as well as ongoing professional development and coaching for continued support in the distance-learning environment.



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MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

Instruments

BASIC

- DL 14.** Teachers have the option to teach from their physical classrooms in order to utilize musical instruments and equipment during distance instruction in accordance with local and state public health guidelines.
- DL 15.** Students have access to instruments and needed accessories for distance learning (e.g., music stands, reeds, valve oil, neck straps, method books, etc.)
- DL 16.** Students have access to instrument repair facilities when participating in distance learning.

Accessories

BASIC

- DL 17.** During distance learning, a high-quality laptop or desktop with volume control is provided (must be capable of running conferencing software and external applications for music).
- DL 18.** A quality microphone and video web camera are provided for distance learning.
- DL 19.** Access to high-speed Internet is provided during distance learning.
- DL 20.** Students are provided Internet hotspots, hardware, and software needed for distance learning.

QUALITY

- DL 21.** Distance-learning technologies are inventoried and kept up-to-date.
- DL 22.** High-quality video web cameras and microphones are available for students to record their learning.

Content

Specific to grade level or strand

Technology

BASIC

- DL 23.** Teachers can access and integrate high-quality technologies for distance learning (e.g., Smart Boards).

FACILITIES

BASIC

- DL 24.** Teachers have a space in which to teach that is conducive to distance learning.
- DL 25.** When a music teacher must move classroom to classroom and is providing (concurrent or hybrid) simultaneous teaching, teachers should be provided a mobile cart with all necessary equipment and accessories for teaching.