

Here are some questions and answers that we have encountered over the years while assisting with SAU grants. I have also attached 2 documents that further outline Student Objectives and a measurement tool example we created in collaboration with one of our Residency Schools who has successfully written and received grants for the past 5 years.

What are we going to use for Performance Measurements?

Often the best measurements are determined by the curriculum standards. We often work with PE and Music teachers who identify the specific standards that are being achieved/met during the NHDI activity. I don't know if you all are following the new National PE Standards as put forth by SHAPE or the former curriculum standards or Arts Framework by the State of NH. Dance and social emotional learning objectives are specifically identified in both standards.

What do we anticipate the outcome being?

The anticipated outcome is increased understanding, ability and connection to movement as an individual and communal activity (again, much of this is in the standards.)

What is the main priority that these will evaluate?

The main priority varies on the initiatives determined by each individual school. Many outline the physical benefits of the movement (standards and focus techniques) while providing a well-rounded arts exposure experience in the school environment with an arts-in-education program providing the artform of Dance. The connective power of the all-school activity & performance is often identified as a benefit of the program.

We always incorporate curriculum into our themes, teaching and performance. Here's a description of this year's theme:

We look forward to dancing together with this year's show entitled "Just Write!" We will explore the writing process and the challenges students might encounter as they tackle words, sentences, paragraphs, journaling and self discovery through written expression. As always, we will incorporate social-emotional learning through our teaching methods, encouragement and teamwork.

How does an NHDI Program benefit our students?

NHDI's approach to social emotional learning through dance is a powerful and effective tool for promoting positive youth development. Through NHDI's dance programs, students learn important social-emotional competencies such as self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, and teamwork. It teaches them the power of discipline and critical thinking in an environment where they can build and maintain supportive relationships. Having these relationships allows children to learn and grow in a positive, constructive way. This educational setting is important for all children because it promotes deeper concentration skills, and in the end, students gain a tremendous amount of confidence.

Our programs give children the opportunity to express themselves through movement, developing skills that are essential to their physical and mental well-being. We are not creating dance through humans; we are developing humans through dance because we value:

- the belief that excellence resides within every child.
- exposure to, participation in and appreciation for the performing arts.
- a fun, educational environment for children to express themselves through dance, story, and music.
- development of lifelong interpersonal skills through character building and teamwork.
- dance instruction that celebrates the individual while connecting each child to the community of others.
- the promotion of the physical, emotional, educational, and intellectual well-being of every child.
- personal effort and positive attitude developed through discipline and perseverance. an inclusive environment in which every child has the opportunity to dance regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status.

Happy to help further in any way if there are specific questions!