

FLORIDA

SEAL OF FINE ARTS PROGRAM

Guide for School District Administrators & Theatre Teachers

The Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program was created to encourage fine arts students to develop expertise in the performing or visual arts. (*Florida Statute 1003.4321*)

What Qualifies for the Florida Seal of Fine Arts?

To earn the Florida Seal of Fine Arts in Theatre, a student must:

1. Earn a standard high school diploma.
2. Successfully complete at least three year-long theatre courses (e.g., acting, technical theatre, playwriting, theatre history, etc.) with a grade of “A” or higher in each course or earn three sequential theatre course credits with a grade of “A” or higher in each course.
3. Meet a minimum of two of the following additional requirements:

Option 1:

Advanced Theatre Coursework

Complete an advanced theatre course such as International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment, or an honors course in theatre with a grade of “B” or higher.

Option 2:

Juried Theatre Events

Participate in a **district** or **statewide juried** theatre event for two or more years. Students must receive feedback.

Examples of qualifying events include:

- Florida District and/or State Thespians Festival (Individual or Group Events)
- Florida Theatre Conference (FTC) Individual or Group Events
- YoungArts National Competition (Theatre)

NOTE: Local performance competitions, showcases, and recitals are not considered “district or statewide” events.

Option 3:

Community Service in Theatre

Complete 25 hours of theatre-related community service*, such as:

- Leading theatre workshops for younger students
- Volunteering with local theatre productions, festivals (e.g., ushering, building sets, etc.)
- Performing in or supporting theatre productions in community service settings (e.g., children’s hospitals, retirement communities, etc.)

NOTE: Student participation in their school’s productions or events, or in community/regional theatres in any capacity is not considered “community service.”

*Students must submit a comprehensive presentation to their teacher reflecting on the community service experience, highlighting how the service contributed to personal and artistic growth.

Option 4:

Portfolio-Based Recognition

Submit a portfolio that demonstrates exemplary theatre skills. The portfolio may include:

- Recordings of performances in lead or supporting roles
- Original works, such as playwriting, directing, or dramaturgical projects
- Technical theatre designs or stage management projects/prompt books

NOTE: Student portfolios should reflect a high level of proficiency and be evaluated by a panel of theatre educators or adjudicators. The evaluation process should be determined at the district level.

Option 5:

Recognition of Original Work

Receive district, state, or national recognition or awards for an original theatre work. Qualifying works include:

- Original playwriting submitted to competitions such as the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards (Playwriting category)
- Original direction, choreography, devised piece, design, etc. recognized at district or state Thespian Festivals or similar juried event.

Documentation & Application Process

1. Track completion of coursework, juried events, and volunteer hours with supporting documentation at the district level.
2. Submit applications along with portfolios, reflections on community service, or original work recognitions through a district-coordinated process.
3. Deadlines and Coordination: Ensure submissions are received early enough (suggest February or March) to verify grades and other requirements before diplomas are awarded.

Note: Committees and processes to determine student eligibility will be determined at the district level.

