

SCDE Arts Teacher Institutes 2026

Descriptions and Progression

South Carolina Arts Leadership for Success Academy (SCALSA)

Institute Location: Spartanburg, SC

Credit: 3hrs Graduate Credit from Converse University

Dates:

- April 11, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 7-12, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Room and Board Included)
- September 12, 2025; Post-Institute Meeting (Virtual)

Who Should Attend:

- Arts Teachers in years 1-3 of teaching
- Arts Teachers completing Alternative Certification (PACE, AFA, etc.)
- Elementary, Middle, High

Institute Description:

SCALSA emphasizes the development of standards-based arts curricula, instruction, and assessment as teachers. The primary goal of this institute is to support young arts teachers to advocate and support the continuation of teachers in the arts profession and participation in future institutes offered by the South Carolina Department of Education while supporting student growth in the arts classrooms. The retention of quality professional teachers in the arts for South Carolina schools is of primary concern for this institute providing quality professional development emphasizing a teacher-teaching-teacher model providing needed support for personal growth as teachers.

Curriculum Leadership in the Arts I (CLIA-I)

Institute Location: Charleston, SC

Credit: 3hrs Graduate Credit from College of Charleston

Dates:

- April 11, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 14-19, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Room and Board Included)
- December 12, 2026; Post-Institute Meeting (Virtual)

Who Should Attend:

- Arts Teachers who have completed SCALSA
- Arts Teachers not eligible for SCALSA participating in their FIRST Arts Teacher Institute
- Elementary, Middle, High

Institute Description:

CLIA focuses on curriculum, instruction, assessment, and technology in the implementation of the 2026 *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards* to emphasize student growth. CLIA helps to build partnerships between Arts teachers, community Arts organizations, and higher education. Participants are introduced to current issues and recent research in Arts Education as well as support strategies to sustain the Arts. Participants develop and teach complex standards-based lessons with embedded assessment that emphasize student growth through a series of workshops and hands-on learning activities that inspire innovation. Guest presenters join the participants during the week for a series of seminars, workshops, and training sessions about SLOs, Arts assessment, teacher leadership,

and Arts Advocacy. Through these opportunities, participants deepen their practice as teachers, artists, intellectuals, and Arts Advocates. CLIA also focuses on developing leadership skills and addresses the changing context in which the Arts operate and thrive.

Arts Assessment Institute

Institute Location: Spartanburg, SC

Credit: 3hrs Graduate Credit from Converse University

Dates:

- May 16, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 8-12, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Room and Board Included)
- September 18, 2026; Post-Institute Panel (Virtual)

Who Should Attend:

- Arts Teachers who have completed CLIA
- Elementary, Middle, High

Institute Description:

Arts Assessment Institute focuses on the development of arts assessments to inform classroom instruction. In the institute, students develop an understanding of the relationship between curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Students review different forms of assessment and develop an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each format. The Arts Assessment Institute is an extension of skills learned in SCALSA and CLIA, so participants should have successfully completed SCALSA (if applicable) and CLIA.

Curriculum Leadership in the Arts II (CLIA-II)

Institute Location: Rock Hill, SC

Credit: Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from Winthrop University

Dates:

- May 23, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 15-19, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Room and Board Included)
- October 19, 2026; Post-Institute Meeting (Virtual)

Who Should Attend:

- Arts Teachers who have completed CLIA-I and AAI.
- Elementary, Middle, High

Institute Description:

The Curriculum Leadership Institute in the Arts II (CLIA-II) develops arts educators' leadership capacities in curriculum, instruction, and professional advocacy. Through examination of arts education initiatives, research, and policy, candidates strengthen their facilitation and presentation skills, engage in peer feedback, conduct collaborative planning, and participate in cycles of reflection. The course integrates the NEA Teacher Leadership Competencies, including overarching and pathway competencies with the Standards for Professional Learning to prepare leaders capable of upholding and advancing high-quality, equitable instruction aligned to the *2026 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards*.

Arts Integration Leaders Institute

Institute Location: Rock Hill, SC

Credit: Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from Winthrop University

Dates:

- May 16, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 8-12, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Room and Board Included)

Who Should Attend:

- Arts and Non-Arts Teachers
- Lead Teachers and Curriculum Coaches, Arts and Non-Arts
- Curriculum Specialists and Coordinators
- School and District Administrators
- Elementary, Middle, High

Institute Description:

Arts Integration Leaders Institute (AILI) offers a unique Professional Learning Opportunity (PLO) for education professionals who are at a proficient level of implementation and desire a deeper exploration of how to design an arts integration learning experience and assist colleagues in strengthening their understanding of and implementation of arts integration teaching practices. Participants will gain specific knowledge and skills through engagement in and reflection on modeled teaching experiences. Experiential learning provides authentic analysis of modeled facilitation and lessons which informs the development of arts integration lessons for students. Institute content is designed for AILI graduates to be able to lead arts integration-related PLOs as well as independently and collaboratively design and deliver authentic arts integration lessons. Assignments require participants to apply text vocabulary and concepts through AILI facilitation sessions, the analysis of their previous attempts, published arts integration strategies, and the modeled integration lessons of Master Teachers. Institute texts include the 2026 *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards* and Profile of the South Carolina Graduate (PSCG) Competencies Framework and serve to explore arts integration as an effective approach to SC-specific teaching expectations.

Dance Technique Institute

Institute Location: Columbia, SC

Credit: up to 45 Professional Development Recertification Hours

Dates:

- June 15-29, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Room and Board Included)

Who Should Attend:

- Dance Teachers
- Elementary, Middle, High

Institute Description:

The Dance Technique Institute will focus on approaches to teaching modern dance. American modern dance is a central component of dance curricula in our state and this institute will focus on modern dance approaches from important historical figures such as José Limón, Katherine Dunham, Lester Horton, Merce Cunningham, and Martha Graham. These codified dance styles provide a basis for other contemporary dance approaches that are relevant to students. With modern dance as an integral part of K-12 dance education curricula across the state, the relevance, and timeliness, of this topic will support a professional development opportunity that reflects the most current, best practices in the field. The approaches presented in this institute will utilize experts in the field, latest research, and innovative methods for dance education.

Instructors will model many of the approaches within the classes, so participants can see the effective strategies and how they may implement these in their own classroom. Specific attention will be paid to strategies that highlight the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for Visual and Performing Arts particularly on the Artistic Process of Connecting - *I can relate artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context*. Participants will explore movement from their own background as well as others through community engagement activities and what it is like to develop dance specific to a community.

Design Lab Teacher Institute

Institute Location: Aiken, SC

Credit: up to 45 Professional Development Recertification Hours

Dates:

- May 13, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 15-19, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Room and Board Included)
- October 24, 2026; Post-Institute Meeting (Virtual)

Who Should Attend:

- Arts Teachers, ELA Teachers, Science Teachers, Media Specialists, Instructional Coaches
- Elementary, Middle

Institute Description:

The Design Lab Teacher Institute is offered to support arts educators (dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts) in the implementation of the 2026 *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Design Proficiency Standards* which were written to be applicable across all content areas, creating a natural bridge between the arts and non-arts areas to support arts integration and transdisciplinary learning. Design Thinking is an approach to teaching and learning that lends itself to a variety of instructional approaches. It involves working in collaborative teams to problem solve solutions to a challenge. For this reason, face-to-face learning opportunities are an important aspect for gathering information, identifying challenges, generating potential solutions, hands-on learning with prototyping, testing solutions, and refining and reflecting on concepts learned during the institute. The institute model supports K-8 teachers in implementing design thinking curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Participants will refine their practice through ongoing virtual and face-to-face sessions designed to support the application of new knowledge and skills. Participants will be asked to implement their learning plans with students and reflect on its impact on student learning.

Media Arts and Technology Institute

Institute Location: Columbia, SC

Credit: up to 45 Professional Development Recertification Hours

Dates:

- May 16, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 1-5, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Room and Board Included)
- November 21, 2026; Post-Institute Meeting (Virtual)

Who Should Attend:

- Media Arts Teachers
- Other Arts Teachers Implementing Media Arts into their Disciplines
- Elementary, Middle, High

Institute Description:

This institute uses an inquiry-based approach to help teachers integrate technology, media arts, digital citizenship and media literacy into the classroom. Participants will be provided with equipment and work on numerous media arts projects, with an emphasis on designing units of study that integrate technology and media arts and media literacy. The 2026 *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Media Arts Proficiency Standards* will be emphasized with strategies for their integration in the dance, music, theatre, and visual arts classrooms. The institute will be taught using a combination of face-to-face demonstrations and instruction, online blog discussions, discussions, group activities, and individual activities. The content of the institute contains both in-class and out-of-class activities and assignments including but not limited to the following: online blog, professional article reviews, lesson plan submission based on 2026 Media Arts standards, reflections and 4-5 completed individual media arts artworks (Digital paintings, GIF Animation, Digital Photography, Films, etc.). The overall goal of this course is to empower teachers to incorporate media design ideas, techniques, methods combined with digital citizenship, and media literacy into their visual and performing arts areas with intent to increase student achievement.

Muse STEAM Institute

Institute Location: Spartanburg, SC

Credit: 3hrs Graduate Credit from USC-Upstate

Dates:

- May 15, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 22-26, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Room and Board Included)

Who Should Attend:

- Arts Teachers
- Non-Arts Teachers
- Elementary, Middle, High

Institute Description:

This institute promotes inquiry-based learning for any classroom and uses the 2026 *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards* in its instruction. The course will stimulate creativity, curiosity, reflective, and innovative thought. The course provides hands-on challenges and activities, instruction in multiple intelligences, and guidance in using the arts across the curriculum. Participants will have daily STEAM/design challenges working both individually and in teams to solve a particular problem. In addition to classroom instruction hours, this institute includes a field trip to Milliken & Company, a company that focuses on innovation and science, design, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) thinking. This institute will focus on integrating design problems, utilizing assessment techniques, and give direct instruction to integrate design/STEAM challenges for classrooms. Attention will be given to helping participants become familiar with the *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards*, with high emphasis on design thinking standards. Participating teachers will be graded on their daily participation in class activities, written journals, creation of lesson plans, Design and STEAM challenge participation, completion of class assignments, and final exam. All class activities are relevant to the current education climate and will be achievable. Participants must use the 2026 *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards* and will become familiar with the design thinking process.

Curriculum and Instruction for Artistically GT Students

Institute Location: Summerville, SC

Credit: 3hrs Graduate Credit from Converse University

Dates:

- June 6, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 15-19, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Summerville; Room and Board Included)
- September 26, 2026; Post-Institute Meeting

Who Should Attend:

- Arts Teachers
- GT Arts Teachers
- Elementary, Middle, High

Institute Description:

Curriculum and Instruction for Artistically Gifted and Talented Students is the second institute in a two institute learning and research program that prepares arts educators for delivering quality artistically gifted education services in South Carolina. The goals of the first Institute, *Nature and Needs of the Artistically Gifted and Talented Learner*, are to prepare participants with the knowledge to successfully identify artistically gifted students and develop identification systems for artistically gifted students for use in their school or district.

The second institute builds upon the knowledge and skills of the first institute. Participants in *Curriculum and Instruction for Artistically Gifted and Talented Students* should successfully complete *Nature and Needs of the Artistically Gifted and Talented Learner* before enrolling in the second institute. Creating curriculum, implementing programs, and teaching the artistically gifted is uniquely different from standard gifted education. The range of abilities of students can encompass a spectrum from talented to gifted, and from prodigy to genius. Through these two institutes, participants develop the knowledge and skills to further the achievement of these special needs populations. on identification of artistically gifted students.

Visual Arts Literacy Institute (Arts Integration)

Institute Location: Greenville, SC

Credit: up to 45 Professional Development Recertification Hours

Dates:

- April 16, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 8-11, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Greenville; Room and Board Included)
- September 30, 2026; Post-Institute Meeting (Virtual)

Who Should Attend:

- Elementary School Teachers (Special Emphasis: Social Studies, ELA, Science)
- Middle School Teachers (Special Emphasis: Social Studies, ELA, Science)
- Instructional Coaches: Curriculum, Arts Integration
- Visual Arts Teachers

Institute Description:

This arts integration institute will center on visual literacy, with emphasis on the integration of visual art with History and Language Arts. Participants will begin with a virtual pre-institute workshop *Defining Arts Integration: The What and Why* followed by the sharing of new understandings. There will be four full days in June where the participants will engage with professionals from Focus5 to explore

Reflection of Defining Arts Integration Foundational Lessons for Reading Art: What is Art and How to Look at Art, Elements and Principles of Art: Deepening Vocabulary Reading Art as an Approach to Teaching Curriculum Standards, Let's Talk! Facilitating and Managing Student Conversations Planning Reading Art lessons as an approach to teaching in ELA, and Planning Reading Art lessons as an approach to teaching in Social Studies and Science. Collections housed as the Greenville County Museum of Art will be used during the institute.

Visual Arts Teacher as Artist Institute I

Institute Location: Greenville, SC

Credit: 3hrs Graduate Credit from Converse University

Dates:

- June 6, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 15-19, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Greenville; Room and Board Included)
- November 21, 2026; Post-Institute Meeting (In-person)

Who Should Attend:

- Visual Arts Teachers

Institute Description:

This graduate-level course is designed for visual art educators seeking to deepen their understanding of printmaking techniques while fostering their own artistic identities. The Master Teacher and Institute Coordinator/Professor of Record emphasize the exploration of the transformative power of printmaking in both art education curriculum development and personal artistic practice. This one-week institute will provide participants with resources and strategies in printmaking to increase student achievement in visual arts through a strengthened understanding of the content specific to this art form. Participants will evaluate potential student outcomes and effectiveness of varying scripts, develop curricula, instruction, and assessments that align with the 2026 *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards*; and support colleagues through knowledge gained from institute participation. Prior to the institute, participants will assemble original reference images and consider the subject matter of their upcoming work.

The Post-Institute meeting will be held at the SCAEA fall conference in Greenville, SC, November 20-22, 2026.

Visual Arts Teacher as Artist Institute II

Institute Location: Greenville, SC

Credit: 3hrs Graduate Credit from Converse University

Dates:

- June 6, 2026; Pre-Institute Meeting (Virtual)
- June 15-19, 2026; Institute Intensive (In-person; Greenville; Room and Board Included)
- November 21, 2026; Post-Institute Meeting (In-person)

Who Should Attend:

- Visual Arts Teachers

Institute Description:

This graduate-level course is designed for visual art educators who have completed the first printmaking institute and are seeking to expand their technical and pedagogical mastery of the medium. Building on foundational skills, this advanced one-week institute emphasizes continued

exploration of the artist-teacher identity while introducing two additional printmaking approaches. The Master Teacher and Institute Coordinator/Professor of Record will guide participants through an in-depth investigation of printmaking's capacity to transform curriculum design, instructional strategies, and teachers' personal artistic growth. Through advanced studio work, critical reflection, and pedagogical application, participants will strengthen their understanding of how printmaking can elevate student achievement in visual arts. Participants will extend their ability to evaluate student outcomes, design *2026 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency*-aligned curricula, and serve as leaders within their school communities. Prior to the institute, participants will gather personal source material, review their previous printmaking work, and prepare ideas for an expanded series. The Post-Institute meeting will be held at the SCAEA fall conference in Greenville, SC November 20-22, 2026.

Strategic Arts Planning Institute

Institute Location: Virtual

Credit: Recertification credits are not issued by the institute but may be awarded by the local school and/or district.

Dates:

- June 8-12, 2026; Institute Intensive (Virtual)
- October 19, 2026; Post-Institute Meeting (In-Person)

Who Should Attend:

- Strategic Planning/Steering Committee Members
 - Arts Teachers
 - Non-Arts Teachers
 - Arts Administrators
 - School and District Administrators
 - Parent Representatives

Institute Description:

This institute is designed for participants who currently need help with their strategic arts plan and/or grants management including SCDE Distinguished Arts Program recipients, schools/districts who are interested in creating innovative opportunities in the arts for their students, and schools/districts/ organizations that are writing a strategic plan for the arts for the first time. Organizations should select a planning team of 4-6 participants to serve as their Arts Steering Committee for the institute to write a comprehensive strategic arts plan that includes dance, design, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts. The institute will be held virtually with a final/post-institute session in-person at the Palmetto State Arts Education Arts Integration Conference in October 2026. Each Arts Steering Committee will complete a five-year strategic arts plan by the end of the institute.

Joint Arts Administrators Institute (JAAI)

Institute Location: Virtual and In-person (Various Locations)

Credit: Recertification credits are not awarded for this institute.

Who Should Attend:

- District Arts Coordinators
- Principals of Arts-focused Schools
- School-based Arts Administrators and Leaders

Institute Description:

JAAI offers a comprehensive approach to *Navigating the Complexities of Arts Programs*, combining monthly Zoom Chats, statewide conference panels, a robust resource library, a centralized database of resumes and job openings, and the culminating Two-Day Summit. Each element is designed to advance the program's goals: strengthening professional connections through learning events, empowering arts leaders with best practices in concentrated areas, enhancing leadership skills for educational impact, and cultivating a community of support and collaboration. By participating, arts educators gain practical tools, meaningful connections, and a network of peers across the state, ensuring they are equipped to lead vibrant, sustainable arts programs in their districts.