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## What is The Dance Arts Conservatory?

The Dance Arts Conservatory is a school that integrates the best of Texas Public School with the best Dance, Voice, Acting, Theater, and Industry Professionals.

At the end of their senior year, Conservatory students graduate with a two part degree; they receive a Recommended or Distinguished Diploma from iUniversity Prep, a magnet school part of Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, or Texas Connections Academy, which operates as a Houston ISD Charter. Through virtual high schools, students can participate in clubs like National Honor Society. Through the virtual high school programs, students are able to take advantage of AP and IB classes – with more variety than is offered in most districts. Both online programs have Administration offices in Texas, and both will host actual graduations for their seniors.

There are several benefits to online public school, one of which is actual instruction time. Texas teachers report an average of 1360 discipline interventions in one 180+ day school year; this is approximately 8 disruptions per day. One third of Texas teachers say they lose anywhere from 2 to 4+ hours each week to discipline intervention ([www.tasb.org](http://www.tasb.org). "Strategies for Averting Disruptive, Off Task, and Unsafe Behavior." 2016. Joanie Arrot and Dr. Karlyn Keller). When a disruptive student acts out in class, he/she distracts the teacher and takes instruction time away from every student in the classroom. These disruptions simply do not occur with online programs. The students at The Conservatory are A/B students, some of whom have been inducted into NHS – while maintaining vigorous training schedules.

Part two of that degree comes in the form of a transcript from The Conservatory. We use the same TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) utilized by public schools, ensuring that our instructors are meeting and surpassing the benchmarks set by the TEA (Texas Education Association). All instructors are experts in their areas – some with more than 30 years of experience. They perform with companies, work with high schools and colleges, have their own theatre groups, and perform regularly outside of instructional time. We have measurable levels of performance, so that teachers may issue grades for students in each class. An Administrator,

who is a grade 6-12 Texas Certified teacher, is present every day, teaches his/her own Performing Arts classes, insures that instructors meet course requirements , and monitors student performance.

Most junior high and high school students are busy, but it is a mistake to think that students who attend magnets or conservatories have less work or more free time. Conservatory and magnet students have a very concentrated 4-5 hours each day to read, attend "live lessons," complete course work, write papers, and take tests. Work which isn't completed within that time must still be completed, but these students also have an additional 3-4 hours of dance, music, or theater training during each school day. Then, at the end of each school day, these students go on to their respective studios or troupes for an additional 3-5 hours of practice; many of these young women and men are gone from 6:30am – 10:00pm, four-seven days each week.

The Dance Arts Conservatory provides a structured, informal, exciting environment for young men and women who want to pursue careers in the performing arts, and who understand professional discipline and academic excellence are large parts of that success.