



PRESENTS

DANCE... FOR SCHOOLS 2026

Engaging Educators and Students



FIELD TRIP + K12 EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

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SIGN-UP

PREPARE

EXPERIENCE

REFLECT



DANCE FOR SCHOOLS IS THE ALABAMA DANCE FESTIVAL'S ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES HIGH-QUALITY, MEANINGFUL ARTS EXPERIENCES FOCUSED ON P12 STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND ARTISTS. DANCE FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAMS FOCUS ON ARTS INTEGRATION, ARTS ENHANCEMENT, AND ARTS EXPOSURE.

Community Partners



Support received from



Engaging Educators and Students

FIELD TRIP + PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PACKAGE

Field Trip: Dance Across Birmingham

Date: January 17, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Value: ~~\$125~~ | Cost: **FREE**

Location: BJCC
Birmingham, Alabama



Professional Learning: Move to Learn

Date: February 14, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Value: ~~\$250~~ | Cost: **FREE**

Location: Pizitz Middle School
Birmingham, Alabama

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FIELD TRIP: DANCE ACROSS BIRMINGHAM

JANUARY 17, 2026 | BJCC
10:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Dance Across Birmingham offers a day of **FREE** dance classes for all ages. Styles range from hip-hop, belly dance, and praise dance to African dance, Latin dance and more, taught by talented dance artists and artistic directors of local dance companies. Classes meet in the BJCC North Meeting Rooms. Register online to reserve space in your favorite classes! **No experience or dance clothes needed!** Come as you are! Each class is 60 minutes.



www.danceacrossbirmingham.org

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

ZUMBA | SALSA | IMPROVISATION | STEP TO THIS!

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

MUSICAL THEATRE | HIP HOP | JAZZ | BHARATANATYAM

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

LUNCH BREAK

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

W. AFRICAN | CONTEMPORARY | HEELS | GYROKENSIS

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

HIP HOP | BELLYDANCE | YOGA | COSTA RICAN FOLK

A **Birmingham Dance Showcase** ticket is included in your DAB registration. After your day of dancing, enjoy an early evening concert of this area's best dance talent in the BJCC Theatre.

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING: WORKSHOP **Move to Learn: Leveraging Brain Body Connections to Increase Academic Performance**

led by Dr. Nyama McCarthy-Brown

Saturday, February 14, 2026

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Pizitz Middle School



This workshop explores how movement enhances focus, memory, and problem-solving, helping students retain information more effectively. Educators will discover easy, evidence-based strategies to integrate physical activity into daily lessons—boosting engagement and academic outcomes without sacrificing instructional time. Participants will learn how the body supports brain function and leave with practical tools to energize learning across subjects. Perfect for teachers who want to create classrooms where movement fuels achievement.

ABOUT NYA

Dr. Nyama McCarthy-Brown is a culturally sustaining pedagogue. She is an Associate Professor of Dance Pedagogy through Community Engagement on faculty at The Ohio State University and was the university's first Artist Laureate. She teaches dance education and contemporary dance with Africanist underpinnings, grounded in the celebration of all movers. In 2021 she was the recipient of two national teaching awards, from Dance Teacher Magazine and National Dance Education Organization respectively. She is also an established scholar, with numerous academic publications. In 2017, her book, *Dance Pedagogy for a Diverse World: Culturally Relevant Teaching in Research, Theory, and Practice* was published and quickly became an anchoring text in dance education internationally. Her second book, *Skin Colored Pointes: Interviews with Women of Color in Ballet*, received the Harry Shaw and Katrina Hazzard-Donald Contribution to African American Popular Culture book award in 2025. Dr. McCarthy-Brown is an active workshop facilitator and consultant for diversifying dance curriculum for organizations such as: San Francisco Ballet School; Joffrey Ballet; BalletMet, San Francisco Unified School District, Columbus City Schools, Dance Educators Coalition, Minnesota; Rutgers University Dance Department; University of Buffalo; National Dance Institute; and Dance Education Laboratory.

www.1nyama.com





Dance for Schools is the Alabama Dance Festival's arts education program. This program makes high-quality, meaningful arts experiences focused on P12 students, educators, and artists, equitable and accessible. Dance for Schools programs focus on arts-based learning, arts enhancement, arts experiences, and arts competition. Dance for Schools consists of five programs: Professional Learning for Teachers and Teaching Artists, Performance designed for school groups, Dance Across Birmingham, Birmingham Dance Showcase, and the Dance Performance Assessment.

Arts-Based Learning

Professional Learning: A day-long workshop and training session where teachers (including special needs, collaborative, counselors), teaching artists, and administrators can learn instructional strategies to effectively bring creative movement into any P12 classroom. Powerschools Continuing Education Units are available. This professional learning opportunity demonstrates how to utilize arts-based learning in the classroom with practical methods and resources. Accomplished dance educators are brought in to facilitate, including Ann Biddle, Gina Kohler, Celeste Miller, Adrienne Clancy, and Frederick Curry. This program is offered at no charge to all participants.

Arts Exposure

Field Trip: Performances designed for school groups are designed to engage students in the arts and provide them with a unique learning experience. These performances are tailored to meet the needs and interests of students, making them both educational and entertaining. These performances can be a great way to introduce students to the world of dance. Tickets are free, but reservations are required. Limited transportation reimbursement is available from the ASC. All students grades 6-12 are invited to attend.

Field Trip: Dance Across Birmingham is a day along dance festival that welcomes dancers of all ages to experience a diverse selection of dance classes and genres. The workshops are led by accomplished regional (Birmingham metro, and Montgomery) dance artists and choreographers. 16 dance classes are offered over the course of the festival, participants can select up to four different classes to take during the day. Students can select classes like Traditional Africa, Sala Footwork, Bharatanatyam, Bollywood, Hip Hop, Heels, Zumba and more. No experience is required. This program is offered at no charge to all participants. ADC works with the Alabama Dance Educators Association K12 to schedule National Dance Honor Society student volunteers to help them gain the required community service hours needed for their honor society eligibility.

Arts Experiences

Perform at the Birmingham Dance Showcase: Dance educators are invited to bring their students to participate in the Birmingham Dance Showcase. There is no cost for students to participate in this professionally produced dance concert. Students are encouraged to watch the show when they are not performing and witness the rich diversity of dance talent in the metro Birmingham area.

Arts Competition

Field Trip: Dance Performance Assessment was created to align the dance arts with the other arts organizations in the state of Alabama. The evaluation process presents public school dance programs with a summative form of assessment that is aligned with the Alabama Course of Study: Arts Education Dance Standards. This is the only statewide, dance assessment in Alabama that is based on the Arts Education Dance Standards. Students who receive a Superior ranking receive a medal during the awards ceremony. There is a nominal fee of \$5 per dancer to participate. (Comparable assessments such as All State Choir are \$25/student or Thespians (I/Es) are \$75.)