



Dancing with Class – Inclusion Statement

Dancing with Class strives to provide programs that are inclusive of all students regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, socioeconomic status, nationality, religion, belief systems, language, or learning styles.

Our focus on social dance provides a wonderful opportunity for students to work in partnership and build relationships across the gender spectrum. Unlike many youth sports teams and other school-based activities, which are often divided by gender, we strive to maintain a program in which boys and girls participate in nearly equal numbers.

For classes and workshops, our Teaching Artists are trained to create flexible learning environments where students feel safe and supported. When teaching social dance, our instructors will offer opportunities for students to share pronoun preferences and can provide gender neutral terminology for learning the different roles that are part of social/partner dancing.

Additionally, if a student's religion prohibits them from dancing with people of the opposite gender, our teaching artists will work with that student to include them in all aspects of our program as much as their restrictions allow.

We are proud of our work to dismantle the social stigma associated with dance for boys, and our requirements for inclusion of both boys and girls in our signature "Dance-Off" events are rooted in our effort to motivate school program leaders to facilitate this participation.

Dance-Off Event Requirements

To ensure that our program reaches students of all genders, we maintain a requirement that the Dance-Off rounds consist of student partnerships that include one boy and one girl (self-identified).

In cases where a student wishes to dance in another role due to a religious restriction or differences in gender expression or identity, we will absolutely support that student and make an exception to our Dance-Off requirement. We believe in teaching our students respect for all, regardless of gender identity.

If a special circumstance arises at your school, either with an individual student's needs or with the gender balance on your team, please work with your teaching artist to communicate that with our program team as soon as possible so that we can foster a positive and supportive experience for all students.

Thank you for your partnership as we work together to empower all youth through the joy of dance!