



DANCE ENSEMBLE AND INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKAGE & COMMITMENT POLICY 2026–27 REGULAR SESSION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Dance Ensembles provide opportunities for students to experience new choreography, develop their performance skills, and learn more about the world of professional dance - all in service of developing their confidence and abilities. Dance Ensemble students represent the RWB School at various events, competitions, and dance festivals throughout the year.

For students demonstrating the ability and dedication for more intensive training in classical ballet, the Intensive Training Program (ITP) offers a specialized curriculum. Regular ballet classes are supported with additional training such as pointe, Dance Ensemble, conditioning, modern, character, and jazz, depending on the program level. Within their weekly ballet classes, students also prepare for Cecchetti ballet examinations.

Spring auditions are held annually, and acceptance into Dance Ensemble and ITP is by audition only, except for select invitation-only programs. Students are selected based on their ability, musicality, commitment, and attendance. Reacceptance into all programming from year to year relies heavily on attendance, progress, and each student's demonstrated commitment and professionalism throughout the previous season.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

Students invited to participate in Dance Ensemble are required to register for the Dance Ensemble class, in addition to the required supporting classes outlined below. As part of the Dance Ensemble class, students will participate in small, large, line, or production group in-class choreography, with a maximum of four pieces per season. Participation in Dance Ensemble is mandatory for all students enrolled in the Intensive Training Program (ITP).

Students may also be invited to participate in additional optional pieces outside of their Dance Ensemble class; however, these opportunities are not guaranteed.

To participate in Dance Ensemble or ITP, students must be registered in additional classes that support their training. Requirements vary by discipline and level but are designed to ensure a well-rounded schedule.

Students in NextGen and ITP are required to register in their program in its entirety.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

<u>NextGen:</u>	Students will be required to register for the program in its entirety.
<u>Pre-Ballet:</u>	Minimum of 2 ballet classes. Must be registered in the 2x/wk program for their level. Jazz is strongly recommended.
<u>Pre-Jazz:</u>	Minimum of 2 ballet classes and 1 jazz class. Hip hop and tap are strongly recommended. Pre-Jazz 4 requires 2 Jazz classes.
<u>Ballet (all Levels):</u>	Minimum of 2 ballet classes. Jazz is strongly recommended.
<u>Jazz (all Levels):</u>	Minimum of 2 ballet classes and 2 jazz classes. Hip hop and lyrical jazz are strongly recommended.
<u>Tap (all levels):</u>	Minimum of 1 tap class and 1 ballet <u>OR</u> jazz class.
<u>Musical Theatre (all levels):</u>	Minimum of 1 musical theatre class and 1 ballet, tap, hip hop, <u>OR</u> jazz class.
<u>Hip Hop (all levels):</u>	Minimum of 1 hip hop class.
<u>ITP:</u>	Students will be required to register for the program in its entirety.

COMMITMENT POLICY

As with any commitment, there are several expectations to be aware of should you or your child be invited to participate in the Intensive Training Program and/or Dance Ensemble(s). Due to the accelerated nature of this programming, a high level of commitment is required. Students who are in other extra-curricular activities should be prepared to prioritize ITP and/or Dance Ensemble(s), with all dance-related commitments expected to take precedence.

Attendance at all registered classes is crucial. When attendance is lacking, it slows the progress of the entire class. If technical abilities begin to suffer due to poor attendance, students may be asked to withdraw from ITP and/or Dance Ensemble without refund of tuition, entry, or costume fees. Similarly, if a student withdraws from a required prerequisite class, they may be asked to withdraw from Dance Ensemble without refund.

Students will be permitted to be absent for a maximum of four Dance Ensemble classes throughout the year, and a maximum of twelve ITP classes.

Family vacations should be discussed with the teacher at the beginning of the year before booking. Every effort should be made to schedule vacations during Fall, Winter, and Spring breaks. Vacations should not be planned during regular classes after the Winter Break, when exam preparation, rehearsals, and choreography cleaning are underway. Absences during this time may result in withdrawal from the program without refund. Attendance records are also taken into consideration for reacceptance into the program the following year.

In the event of disruptions to in-studio programming, all Dance Ensemble and ITP students will be expected to continue their training through an online delivery format.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All students and parents/guardians are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful to their peers, teachers, and the general public at all times, and to abide by the RWB School Code of Conduct. Should behaviour be deemed unacceptable by the RWB School, students may be asked to withdraw from ITP and/or Dance Ensemble without refund of tuition, entry, and costume fees.

PARTICIPATION POLICIES

Dance Ensemble participants are not permitted to register or perform RWB School choreography in outside events in which the RWB School has chosen not to participate. Any additional requests for permission must be submitted in writing to the Recreational Division Principal at least three weeks in advance of the event registration deadline, outlining the choreography the student wishes to present.

Dance Ensemble students are not permitted to participate in the same discipline with another school or group in a performance or competition setting. An exception may be granted for participation in small, large, or line group work required by a student's academic school, provided it does not conflict with their Dance Ensemble category. Solo performances outside of the RWB School are not permitted.

FEES & FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

In addition to regular tuition fees, families should be aware of additional costs associated with participation in Dance Ensemble and ITP.

Dance Ensemble students are responsible for competition entry fees for their Dance Ensemble group piece(s), with participation in a maximum of three competitions. Group entry fees will not exceed \$120 per student, per piece, per competition. Students are also responsible for costume fees for each piece, which typically range from \$60 to \$180, with the RWB School making best efforts to ensure costumes do not exceed \$250. Costume fees are non-refundable.

Jazz Dance Ensemble students are required to participate in one convention, consisting of a weekend of master classes in styles such as jazz, hip hop, and lyrical. Costs generally do not exceed \$400 per student.

ITP students will incur additional costs related to Cecchetti Ballet Examinations (approximately \$180-\$600 depending on level) and Cecchetti Ballet Workshops (approximately \$150-\$175).

Participation in all events is assessed by the RWB School to ensure student safety.

ATTENDANCE, HEALTH, & SAFETY

All absences must be communicated to the School Office in advance so that teachers can be informed. RWB Artistic Faculty reserve the right to remove a student from choreography if they are absent from the final rehearsal prior to a performance without permission from

the choreographer or the Recreational Division Principal at least 48 hours in advance. In cases of sudden illness, the teacher must be notified prior to the rehearsal.

Students who are experiencing symptoms of illness will not be permitted to attend class, rehearsals, or performances.

In the event of injury, students are expected to attend and observe their classes where possible. The RWB School recommends physiotherapy treatment through its recommended providers, who are experienced in dance-related injuries. If a student's medical condition may impact their ability to safely participate, they may be required to provide a medical note from a doctor or physiotherapist clearing them to do so.

If a student is unable to fully participate in classes or rehearsals within four weeks of a performance, Artistic Faculty reserve the right to remove the student from choreography and/or examinations. All decisions are made at the discretion of the Recreational Division Principal and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

TRAVEL & COMPETITIONS

Dance Ensemble students may have the opportunity to participate in out-of-town festivals and competitions if there is sufficient family interest. These opportunities are optional.

Possible destinations may include:

- Vancouver
- Calgary
- Toronto

Families are responsible for all associated costs, including event entry fees, travel, accommodation, meals, and staff support. While RWB staff will attend the event, supervision of students remains the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

- Dance Intensive | August 4 – 15, 2026
- RWB School Dance Ensemble and ITP Event Day | October 23, 2026
- Terpsichore Dance Convention | November 2026 (TBC)
- Rutherford Movement Exchange | November 2026 (TBC)
- Manitoba Cecchetti Ballet Workshop | January 24, 2027 (TBC)
- ADAPT Jazz & Tap Examinations | January 22, 2027 (TBC)
- Cecchetti Ballet Examinations | March 1 – 5, 2027 (TBC)
- Festival Preview Dress Rehearsal | March 14 – 18, 2027 (TBC)
- Festival Preview Performances | March 19 – 21, 2027
- Spring Competitions | Spring 2027 (TBC – three mandatory competitions)
- Dance Spectrum Dress Rehearsals | June 1 – 3, 2027
- Dance Spectrum Performances | June 4 & 5, 2027

All students are required to be available for all scheduled performances, rehearsals, and program-related events.