

**STEAMing Up the Classroom:
The Transition from STEM to STEAM and the Benefit to the Classroom**

By

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Abstract

This project examined Common Core State Standards' definition of college and career readiness as an educational benchmark, as well as employer input about the importance of STEM/STEAM in employability of new graduates, to determine an objective for adopting a new philosophy in making pedagogy decisions. Research and anecdotal observations by professionals about the benefits of differentiation and the Arts to all students, but especially those with mild disabilities, were examined and synthesized with the current literature on STEM. STEAM's inclusion of both differentiation and the Arts into the existing STEM framework allows it to emerge as a viable option to support students in special education with mild disabilities to Common Core State Standards of career and college readiness.