

Melissa McDaniel

Melissa joined the Next Step Dance Family in 2003 and currently serves as our competition director. Her career as a dance instructor and choreographer spans more than twenty years. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and studied dance in North Carolina and New York City. In addition to her work with NSD, she serves as the Director of Visual Art and Dance at a college-preparatory independent school and does freelance choreography for theater productions, schools, and organizations. Melissa is a sought after choreographer and she travels throughout the United States teaching at conventions and judging dance competitions. Her professional choreography credits include shows featuring Ludacris and Jay-Z, as well as productions of The Wiz, Little Shop of Horrors, and Carrousel. Her work has been featured in many notable venues, and she has been the head choreographer for various national corporate campaigns and events. She has danced with professional sports leagues, in stage shows, in videos, and on tour. Melissa has been recognized for her choreography at various levels and has received multiple regional choreography awards for her eye-catching routines. She is a member of Dance Masters of America and the National Dance Education Organization.