



Benefits of Arts Education

"The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create." President Barack Obama

- Student involvement in the arts is linked to higher academic performance, increased standardized test scores, greater involvement in community service and lower dropout rates.ⁱ
- Arts education fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration and innovation.ⁱⁱ
- Students who attend schools where the arts were integrated into classroom curriculum outperform their peers in math and reading who did not have an arts-integrated curriculum.ⁱⁱⁱ

Creativity and Innovation

"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." Albert Einstein

- 1,500 CEOs surveyed by IBM ranked creativity as the most important leadership quality they are looking for in their workers.^{iv}
- One out of six jobs in Southern California is now in the creative industries; and the creative economy is the second largest regional business sector.^v

Current Status of Arts Education in California

"The whole notion of formal, regular arts education has almost disappeared. And kids coming from low-income backgrounds have the least access to things outside of the classroom." Paulette Lynch, Executive Director, Arts Council for Monterey County

- Arts education is mandated in the State Education Code for grades 1-12, in the disciplines of dance, music, theater and visual arts. The code does not mandate schools to follow these content standards, which leaves implementation to the discretion of each school district.
- In 2000, more than one million students were enrolled in school music programs. By 2008, that number had dropped by 57% to 470,000.^{vi}
- Inadequate funding is the main reason for these declines in arts education.^{vii}
- With the state's budget crisis, these numbers have worsened. In 2009, 60% of districts surveyed by the Legislative Analysts Office had shifted Arts and Music Block

Grant funds away from arts and music programs. 20% of those districts cut programs altogether.^{viii}

- According to a national study, African American and Latino students are impacted disproportionately by declines. There was a 49% drop among African Americans and 40% drop among Latinos.^{ix}
- Due to the efforts of parents who value arts programs, privately funded high quality programs have been maintained in wealthier school districts.

ⁱ Catterall, James S. (1997). UCLA Imagination Project, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, UCLA. *Involvement in the Arts and Success in Secondary School*. Washington, D.C: Americans for the Arts.

ⁱⁱ IBID

ⁱⁱⁱ *Champions of Change*, (1999) p. 55, Figure 5 Imagination Project at University of California Graduate School of Education & Information Studies study: [Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education Summary Evaluation](#)

^{iv} IBM (2010). *Capitalizing on Complexity: Insights from the 2010 IBM Global CEO Study*. New York: IBM.

^v Otis College of Arts and Design (2009). *Otis Report on the Creative Economy of the Los Angeles Region*. Los Angeles: Otis College of Art and Design.

^{vi} California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Office, Retrieved March 16, 2011 from: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/CrseList1.asp?cYear=2008-09&cChoice=StCrse&cTopic=Course&cLevel=State&myTimeFrame=S&Self=&Subject=on&AP=&IB=&VE=>

^{vii} Woodworth, K.R., Gallagher, H.A. & Guha, R. (2007). *An unfinished Canvas; Arts Education in California: Taking Stock of Policies and Practices. Summary Report*. Menlo Park, CA: SRI International.

^{viii} Legislative Analyst's Office (2011), *Update on School District Finance and Flexibility*. Sacramento, CA: Legislative Analyst's Office.

^{ix} Rabkin, Nick and Hedberg, E. C. (2011). NORC at the University of Chicago. *Arts Education in America: What the declines mean for arts participation*. Washington, D.C.: National Endowment for the Arts



10 Important Things to Know About Arts Education in California

California is falling behind. For the past thirty years arts education in California's schools has been disappearing at an alarming rate. Only 11% of the public schools are meeting state goals for arts instruction. The state's recent fiscal crisis has resulted in still more dramatic cuts to visual and performing arts education programs.

Extensive research has demonstrated that arts education engages students in learning, contributes to higher test scores and reduces truancy and dropout rates.

A Harris Poll shows that a resounding **93% of Americans consider the arts to be vital to providing a well-rounded education** for children and a critical link to learning and success.

Arts education helps prepare our students for the expectations of the twenty-first century workforce, which includes the ability to innovate, communicate and collaborate. One in six jobs in Southern California is now in the creative industries, including entertainment and communication arts, digital design, product and industrial design.

The arts are uniquely positioned to **engage students who might otherwise drop out of school.** Quality arts education is an essential component of a complete educational experience for every student.

As schools have felt increasing pressure from standardized tests and federal mandates to spend more time on reading and math, school curricula is narrowing in focus, leading to a **22% reduction in the amount of time spent on arts and music instruction.**

Arts education is mandated in our State Education Code for pupils in grades 1-12, in the disciplines of dance, music, theater and visual arts. The code does not mandate schools to follow these content standards, which leaves implementation of arts education to the discretion of each school district.

Due to the efforts of parents who value arts programs, **privately funded high quality programs have been maintained in wealthier school districts.** But a child's access to arts education should not be predicated by where they happen to live.

Your commitment to supporting arts education in our schools will make a difference. ***We ask your support in helping to ensure that arts education becomes part of a more balanced and creative curriculum that every child receives as part of a quality education!***

Provided by the California Alliance for Arts Education www.artsed411.org