



Americans for the Arts & Arts Action Fund Arts Education Fast Facts

The importance of arts education is clear, both anecdotally in our everyday lives and through an ocean of quality research. Still, arts educators, parents and advocates fear cuts in staff, funding, and scheduling that would put arts education instruction at risk, particularly for the traditionally under-represented, students with disabilities, and students from low-income families. While a focus on learning loss experienced by our students during the pandemic is crucial, arts education must be part of the solution and not be allowed to be squeezed out by other subjects. Unfortunately, this is already happening in many schools across the country. Further, teacher shortages and school budget cuts put arts education programs at even greater risk. Access to a quality Arts Education is central to coping with the mental health and loneliness concerns that inflict us today. Arts education provides the social emotional learning and creativity that is being sought out by employers in all industries. Advocate for Arts Education today!

Arts Education Fast Facts:

1. Arts-engaged kids have fewer problems with their peers, teachers, and adults, and they are less likely to develop depression. Additionally, data has indicated that children who participated regularly in the arts are less likely to develop social issues in their teenage years. (*Daisy Fancourt et al*)
2. Research indicates that extracurricular arts activity at age 10-11 is associated with a reduction in behavior associated with problems in conduct, hyperactivity, and inattention. (*Fluharty et al*)
3. Arts education prepares students to contribute to the workforce and helps them to cultivate skills that employers are looking for in professionals. A 2019 survey found that employers seek to hire professionals with written communication skills, problem solving capabilities, and teamwork. Arts education helps students to hone these skills. (*National Association of Colleges and Employers*)
4. Research has found that students in low-income schools who participate in after-school dance programs tend to experience heightened self-esteem and social skills. (*Mason and Chuang*)
5. The arts are part of a well-rounded education defined in the federal law, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. As of 2020, all 50 states plus the District of Columbia have adopted standards for learning in the arts. Yet, two-thirds of public-school teachers believed that the fine arts are among subjects getting crowded out of the school day by a focus on math and English. (*Education Commission of the States*)

6. Students in schools that offer arts-integrated learning are more likely to show better academic outcomes, transfer knowledge from arts to non-arts domains, and demonstrate greater motivation and engagement in learning. (*Burnaford et al*)
7. Research suggests that arts integration naturally leads students to interact with academic content in ways that promote long-term retention, particularly those who struggle with achieving success in conventional or non-arts integrated teaching approaches. (*Hardiman et al*)
8. Research shows that visual arts students grow in the areas of self-efficacy and originality than non-arts students. They were also able to maintain higher levels of focus in their regular school classrooms for longer periods of time than their non-participating peers. (*Catterall and Peppler*)
9. Based on research focused on Tennessee Public Schools, students who participate in arts education experience various academic benefits. In literacy, 47% of these students achieve proficiency, compared to the schoolwide average of 36%. Similarly, in mathematics, 46% of arts education students reach proficiency, while the schoolwide average is 35%. (*Face The Music*)
10. Students in Houston Public Schools that had resources to enhance partnerships with arts organizations and institutions experienced reduction in disciplinary infractions, an improvement in standardized writing scores, and an increase in their compassion for others. (*Kisida and Bowen*)
11. There is a disproportionate number of students without access to music and arts education are concentrated in public schools in major urban or very rural communities; in public schools that have the highest percentage of students eligible for free/reduced-price meals; and in public schools with a student population that is majority Black, Hispanic, or Native American. (*Arts Education Data Project*)
12. A study of Virginia Public Schools shows up to 50 percent less chronic absenteeism rates for career arts students (four years of arts instruction) than non-career arts students. (*Arts Education Data Project*)
13. Research has found that students in low-income schools who participate in after-school dance programs tend to experience heightened self-esteem and social skills. (*Mason and Chuang*)
14. Studies show that high school band students have higher achievement scores in Math, English, and Biology than their peers who are not in band (*Gouzouasis et al*).