

Background:

California Education Code states that every K-12 student shall receive instruction in and access to arts education. Yet the California Arts Education Data Project concludes that only 39% of students in California public schools have access to the arts, and that access is significantly lower in low-income and rural schools. SB 933 authored by Senator Ben Allen -- the "Arts For Every Student Act" -- will provide school districts with a "jump start" in arts education funding, enabling schools to begin to fulfill the provision in the Education Code.

History:

Over the past forty years the notion of formal, regular arts education has almost disappeared from our schools. Students coming from low-income backgrounds have the least access to arts education. Despite the fact that arts education is mandated in the State Education Code for grades 1 to 12 in dance, music, theater and visual arts, Education 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 throughout the state. By 2008 that number had dropped by 57% to 470,000. These cuts have disproportionately impacted African American and Latino students who, according to a national survey, experienced drops of 49% and 40% in arts education instruction. Due to the efforts of parents who value arts programs (93% consider it essential to a complete education), privately funded high quality programs have been maintained in more affluent school districts, creating unequal access to the benefits of arts education.

An Equitable Solution

Access to arts education instruction should not be determined by where a student happens to live. Regrettably, the data shows otherwise: in districts and schools in low-income communities, students are twice as likely not to receive the benefits of arts instruction when compared to more affluent communities. This inequity is unacceptable. Every student deserves the benefits of arts education. SB 933 honors the promise of our Education Code by helping to ensure that the arts are part of the education that every student receives. Specifically SB 933 will:

- Establish one time grant funding for socioeconomically disadvantaged school districts lacking the capacity to provide access to visual and performing arts for every pupil.
- Establish one time grant funding for districts with a demonstrated commitment to visual and performing arts education, in which funding may be used to match local investment for specific programs.
- Favorable consideration will be given to districts that offer high-quality curriculum instruction provided by credentialed visual and performing arts educators and qualified community arts providers.
- Funding may be used to support arts integration training for teachers, to enhance educator preparation and to provide professional learning in the visual and performing arts.

Individual county data can be found on the [CREATE CA website](#).

For more Information or to download our template support letter please visit:

http://artsed411.org/support_sb_933_arts_every_student

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