

10 Important Things to Know About Arts Education in California

1. **There's good news:** Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law in 2006 the single largest investment in music and arts education programs in the history of our country -- \$105 million in ongoing funds to support instruction and \$500 million in one time funds, shared with physical education, for equipment, supplies, and professional development. These funds will begin to reach schools and students in 2007.
2. **Much more support for arts education is needed.** For the past thirty years arts education in California's schools has been disappearing at an alarming rate. Between 1999 and 2004, student enrollment in music education declined by 47%. This new funding, though significant, **is only a down payment** on what it will take to restore arts education for California's students.
3. **Extensive research has demonstrated that arts education promotes basic academic skills** and helps develop well-rounded students, who are able to think clearly, express their thoughts and solve complex problems.
4. **Arts education helps prepare our students for the expectations of the twenty-first century workforce,** which require effective communication skills, adaptability to changing situations, and the ability work effectively with others.
5. A recent Harris Poll released in June 2005 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.
6. 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.**
7. **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 require schools to follow these content standards, which leaves implementation of arts education to the discretion of each school district.
8. 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.
9. Until school districts have confidence that new arts education funding is ongoing, they will be reluctant to invest in hiring and training teachers. **We need to secure ongoing funding for sequential, standards-based arts education for all children in grades K-12.**
10. Your commitment to supporting arts education in our schools will make a difference. ***Find out how the new funding is being spent in your district and raise your voice to help ensure ongoing arts education funding in the coming fiscal year!***





WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT ARTS EDUCATION

Find out what's happening in your legislative district with the new funding being allotted for arts education by the state. Let school district administrators know that you care about how this money is being spent.

Make a commitment to visit a school site in your district during March, which is Arts Education Month. Join with CAAE in a local press event, highlighting students' accomplishments and how the new arts funding is impacting the lives of children in your district

Support effective implementation of this new investment of public funds by encouraging school districts to:

- Hire qualified teachers to fill available positions
- Provide teachers with standards based professional development
- Provide school site administrators and district level personnel with leadership based professional development
- Develop standards based curriculum, providing key elements for teachers to use in facilitating student learning
- Assure assessment of student learning and proper evaluation of instructional programs
- Provide Instructional resources to support standards-based visual and performing arts education

Support ongoing funding for arts education in the state budget!

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

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Who is CAAE?

Over its 34-year history, California Alliance for Arts Education has advanced its mission to “promote, support and advocate visual and performing arts education for preschool through post-secondary students in California schools.” It is the only statewide organization that brings together all primary constituencies for arts education: parents and PTA’s, K-12 teachers, artists, arts organizations, professional teacher associations, state and local education departments, professional development providers, and interested community members in higher education and business.

The arts education community is united in support of arts education as vital to the education of every California student. As the principal statewide organization serving all arts education constituents, CAAE works in strategic partnership with the California Department of Education, the California County Superintendents Association, the California Arts Council, the California State PTA, The California Arts Project, professional educator associations, and other key partners. CAAE has advocated for arts education with the engagement and support of its membership to:

- **Facilitate** a statewide arts education information network
- **Advocate for statewide policies** to ensure that every child benefits from an arts education
- **Educate state and local policymakers** and parent organizations about the benefits of the arts as integral to a complete education
- **Recognize student achievement** in the arts and promote arts education excellence in California schools
- **Promote standards-based instruction** and professional development of qualified teachers and artists
- **Collaborate** with local, state and national arts and education agencies in developing programs and resources

Legislative Priorities

The California Alliance for Arts Education values, advocates, and initiates policies that establish quality, consistency, and equity in arts education programs throughout the California public education system. In the coming legislative year, we will be working with your office to ensure ongoing funding for visual and performing arts education, and will continue to focus on these areas as they relate to arts education:

- Accountability
- Student Access
- Resources
- Professional Development

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