



For Immediate Release

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GROUNDBREAKING ELEMENTARY ARTS DATA BILL INTRODUCED BY CHU

Legislation would establish data system to track arts education in elementary school for the first time

Sacramento, CA (April 10, 2019) – Under the current system parents have no way of knowing whether or not their children are receiving arts education in elementary school classrooms. Legislation introduced today in the Assembly Education Committee by Assemblyman Kansen Chu (D-San Mateo) would require school districts to collect and analyze K-6 arts education data as part of the statewide CALPADS data system.

“I recognize the important role that arts education plays in the education of every child and strongly support efforts that will advance access to arts education throughout the state, including the collection of relevant data,” said Assemblyman Chu.

Sponsored by the California Alliance for Arts Education, the legislation takes an important step toward providing a complete picture of arts education in California’s schools. The K-6 data would enable advocates and school leaders at the local level to make decisions impacting the lives of students. The data will illuminate where inequities exist regarding access to arts offerings, regardless of whether this inequity is based on race, geography or economic conditions.

“Data collected in grades 7-12 indicates significant inequities in the availability and quality of arts education for African American and Latino students and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Without data reporting and data analysis for grades K-6, there is no way to measure or improve the delivery of visual and performing arts curricula in schools,” explained Joe Landon, Executive Director of the California Alliance for Arts Education.

AB 398 passed out of the Education Committee on the consent calendar, with the addition of amendments from the committee.

Assemblyman Chu is Chair of the Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media.

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION advocates for high quality arts education for all students by providing policy expertise and by mobilizing a statewide network of advocates and allied partners. The Alliance is in its fifth decade of working to build a brighter future for our state by making the arts a core part of every child’s education. A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes California’s educators and other experts in arts and culture to increase access to quality arts education and improve the quality of arts education. Visit our website at <http://www.artsed411.org/>.