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

Vision

The arts are integral to every child’s education.

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) Arts Education Plan supports districts, schools, and the community in their effort to provide equal access to the highest quality education and ensure a positive outcome for every Solano County student. The overarching goal of this plan is to achieve exemplary visual and performing arts programs in which all students have opportunities to develop appreciation, skills, and literacy in the arts. This can be accomplished through concerted efforts.

Recommendations

- Create a district arts education plan to set goals and priorities for implementing arts education
- Ensure every student has access to authentic real-world engagement in the arts through meaningful arts experiences and professional interactions.
- Improve teachers’ abilities to provide standards-based arts instruction.
- Provide time, materials and facilities necessary for all students to meet or exceed state standards in the arts.
- Forge collaborative relationships with the community: parents, partners, and teaching artists.
- Support the application for county and local arts grants, foster district collaborations, facilitate curriculum development and advocate for funding through Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).
- Commit adequate, ongoing monetary resources for K-12 student learning in visual and performing arts programs.
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A recent 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.¹

“To remain competitive in the global economy, America needs to reinvigorate the kind of creativity and innovation that has made this country great. To do so, we must nourish our children’s creative skills. In addition to giving our children the science and math skills they need to compete in the new global context, we should also encourage the ability to think creatively that comes from a meaningful arts education...”²

According to the Otis Report on the Creative Economy (2017), 4.1% of jobs in California are in the creative sector, i.e. art and design, that translates to 1.6 million jobs creating \$136 billion in labor income. The Bay Area, which includes Solano County, is one of the leaders in the state’s creative economy with the state’s highest paying jobs.

A team of researchers at Michigan State University studied a group of graduates who majored in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. They found of that group, those who own businesses or patents received up to eight times more exposure to the arts as children than the general public. It was also determined that the arts foster out-of-the-box thinking. In fact, the group reported using artistic skills – such as analogies, playing, intuition and imagination – to solve complex problems.³

In 2015, with a Solano County secondary student enrollment of nearly 32,000, only 36%, or 11,600 students received arts education. High schools had the highest enrollment in arts classes at 45%, while it dwindled in middle schools to 33%, and 10% in elementary schools.⁴



Solano County Office of Education Strategic Arts Education Plan

For Solano County students, study of the arts in its many forms will prepare them for success in school, success in work, increases capacity for leadership, and prepares them for life.⁵ Purposeful student engagement required for visual and performing arts also teaches the Partnership for 21st Century Skills “4 C’s” of creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication. David Coleman, author of the Common Core State Standards, states,

“Meaningful appreciation and study of works of art begins with close observation.

The Core Standards in Literacy similarly describe reading as the product of sustained observation and attention to detail. Particularly when encountering complex art, or reading the level of complex text students will need to be ready for college and careers, students will need to learn to re-examine and observe closely.”⁶

Solano County Office of Education Arts Plan

The Strategic Plan identifies seven Action Areas with action steps, tasks, and outcomes. The Action Areas are:

Communications that build infrastructure to increase awareness, knowledge, and participation in the arts,

Advocacy that includes the collection and dissemination of research and communicating student learning,

Professional Development that increases the capacity of educators to teach the arts,

Partnerships that assist educators to build programs and strengthen community bonds,

Convention of Stakeholders that will serve to educate, inspire, and coalesce the community of stakeholders to increase equity and access to arts education for all students,

Program Assessment and Student Learning that includes maintaining an advisory board that plans, implements, and evaluates progress towards the goals, and

Funding that includes identifying and expanding grant sources, developing partnerships, engaging the community, and advocating for LCAP budgeting for arts education.

Additional Materials

Included with this plan are a list of Committee Members, Action Plan pages, and Phase One Actions

References

¹ 10 Things to Know About Arts Education in CA. California Alliance for Arts Education.

² Reinvesting in Arts Education, President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities (May 2011).

³ *A Young Picasso or Beethoven Might Be the Next Edison*. MSA Today, Michigan State University, Oct 2015.

⁴ California Data Project, numbers based on C-BEDS 2015. CREATE CA. 2017.

⁵ *Preparing Students for the Next America: The Benefits of an Arts Education*, Arts Education Partnership, 2013.

⁶ *Guiding Principles for the Arts: Grades K-12*, David Coleman, presentation for the New York State Department of Education, 2011.

Additional references:

National Core Arts Standards, 2014.

The Qualities of Quality: Understanding Excellence in Arts Education, Project Zero, Harvard University, 2009.
California Ed Codes 51210, 51220 and 8950.