

ARTS EDUCATION IS NOT OPTIONAL.

IT'S ESSENTIAL.

Research consistently demonstrates the numerous positive impacts of arts education on students' lives, such as

IMPROVING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



PREPARING STUDENTS TO SUCCEED IN THE 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE



PROMOTING LIFELONG SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS, INCLUDING RESILIENCY, COLLABORATION, EMPATHY AND LEADERSHIP



Arts education must be used as a pathway to provide students with the tools and understanding necessary to meet the challenges of this unprecedented time.*

THE ARTS AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Each student is dealing with their own unique experience of how the pandemic has impacted their lives: from the trauma of losing loved ones, to the loss of family income creating instability in the family structure, to the isolation of living without the constancy of social interaction with peers and reliable support from dedicated teachers.

Every student has a story to tell and we must encourage and cultivate their voices to tell their unique stories -- Through the drama of a theatrical scene, the harmonious performance of a musical ensemble, the resilience of a painted image or sculpture, or the spontaneous freestyle movements of dance. In whatever form that expression takes, we need to encourage the confidence and social skills that will be required for our students to re-engage in their educational experience.

We recognize that across the student population there are many who continue to suffer from the traumas inflicted during the past year. We strongly encourage communities to invest in mental health practices that support recovery, resilience and expression. Now is the time for our schools to provide students with the restorative power of arts education.

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NEW RESOURCES TO SUPPORT EDUCATION

Significant financial resources are currently being channeled from both the federal and state government to school districts in order to compensate for the impact of the COVID pandemic. These resources are specifically intended to provide support for mental health services, to address learning loss and to support social emotional learning.

California schools will be receiving an unprecedented amount of funding this year.

California K-12 Public Education Funding

Fiscal Year	State Funds	Federal + Local Funds	Total Funds	Per Pupil
2020-21	\$48.1 Billion	\$50.7 Billion	\$98.8 Billion	\$16,881
2021-22	\$65.5 Billion	\$58.4 Billion	\$123.9 Billion	\$21,555

School districts are currently deciding the use of these funds and now is the time to tell them that investing in arts education can help them meet their COVID-19 recovery goals. Here is a summary of the new funding sources districts and schools will be receiving during the 2021-2022 school year:

FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT:

Assembly Bill 86 COVID-19 relief package

The California Legislature provided \$6.6 billion, including \$2 billion for In-Person Instruction Grants and \$4.6 billion for Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Grants.

FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

ESSER 2:

Corona Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act 2021 Provides funding to Local Educational Agencies to address the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools.

ESSER 3: American Rescue Plan Act intends to help states and school districts safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students



WHAT ACTIONS CAN WE TAKE?

Our first responsibility is to address the primary needs of our students. Arts education has a role to play in addressing both short term and long term needs of students. We encourage you to ask the following questions to your school and district leaders by using our Contact Your School Leaders Tool.

There are new sources of funding available for arts education in our district, how do you plan to include arts education in our district's recovery plan?

How do we identify the mental health needs of students?

How can the arts support the healing of students in our district?

In order to improve the current arts education system, how can we include the ongoing role of arts education within the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) of the district?

Is there an addition role that community partners can play in supporting arts education experiences in the schools?

*https://issuu.com/americans4arts/docs/afta_navigator_facts-and-figures

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