

ONLY **11%** OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS ARE TEACHING ALL ARTS DISCIPLINES

California's state education code promises every 1st-12th student classes in music, dance, theatre, and visual arts, yet according to the latest data, **only 11% of schools are meeting this requirement.** Low-income and or Black/Brown students and or rural students are most affected by inequitable visual and performing arts access.

Studies consistently highlight the transformative impact of arts education on student learning and overall success. Exposure to visual and performing arts correlates with increased attendance, reduced dropout rates, and heightened achievement in literacy and math, particularly benefiting English Language Learners and economically disadvantaged students. Additionally, arts education cultivates essential 21st-century skills, including creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. Beyond academics, offering social-emotional learning aids students in navigating personal challenges, addressing mental health, and fostering empathy in an era marked by growing polarization. Recognizing these benefits underscores the urgency of prioritizing arts education now.



YOU CAN HELP SHAPE YOUR STUDENT'S SCHOOLS. **HERE'S HOW:**



UNDERSTAND THE DATA

- [Creativity Challenge: The State of Arts Education in California](#)
Read this report to learn about successes, access, challenges, and promising practices to advance equitable access to arts education in California.
- [Social-Emotional Learning](#)
A growing body of research proves that social-emotional learning (SEL) is fundamental to academic success and students' mental well-being; learn how arts education can be a helpful strategy in creating safer and more productive school environments.
- [California Data Arts Projects](#)
Two interactive dashboards to track Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) arts education teachers and student participation in the arts.



MAKE AN ASK

- [Contact your School Leaders](#)
Look up your school leaders and tell them your students deserve access to standards-based and culturally relevant arts education in all disciplines.
- [Critical Components of Strong Arts Education Programs](#)
Our trusted partners have outlined the key ways to advance arts education in a district, including staffing, curriculum, facilities, scheduling, safety and materials.



OFFER SOLUTIONS

- [Develop Sustainable Plans for Prop 28 funding](#)
The Prop 28 AMS Planning Toolkit, developed in consultation with arts education field leaders, will help Local Education Agency (LEA) administrators, school site staff, and their allies strategize to build or further expand arts programs in dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts in every school and grade level.
- [Create a Strategic Arts Plan](#)
To deliver high-quality, culturally relevant arts education courses to students, school districts and county offices of education need a Strategic Arts Education Plan.
- [Use Multiple Funding Sources for Arts Education](#)
Arts education for all students in all disciplines requires robust funding. Use this document to identify the multiple funding sources that can be used for the arts.



USE CREATE CA'S RESOURCES

- [Advocate for Prop 28 to Expand Arts Education](#)
These outreach materials help advocates connect with school leaders to raise awareness about the opportunities of Prop 28 AMS funding.
- [Implement this Advocacy Project in Your Classroom](#)
This arts and civics-focused lesson plan gives students a creative way to share their vision for better schools and a more democratic society.



WORK TOGETHER WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- [Start an Arts Now Coalition](#)
Join a statewide network of arts education advocates who participate in professional development and local arts education coalition building.
- [Encourage Students to Use their Voices](#)
A leadership development program for students looking to take their advocacy further!



FOLLOW + SHARE + PERSIST

- [Join the Movement](#)
Sign up for our newsletter and follow @CreateCA on social media to stay connected to action items and resources you need to influence your school