About CCSESA

The California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) serves as the statewide organization of the 58 California County Superintendents of Schools with the mission of strengthening the service and leadership capabilities of California’s 58 County Superintendents in support of students, schools, districts, and communities. The primary aim of the County Superintendents is to work collaboratively with schools and districts to ensure that every student benefits from a quality educational experience, regardless of their circumstances, including students with disabilities, juvenile offenders, and students at risk of dropping out of school. CCSESA works with state policymakers including the Governor, Legislature, State Board of Education, and the California Department of Education to ensure that the statutory responsibilities of the County Superintendents are carried out in a consistent and equitable manner across the state.
# Counties on the Move

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CCSESA Service Regions

COUNTIES ON THE MOVE Toward Arts Education for All Students
Knowing that the visual and performing arts contribute to effective schools, the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), with generous support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, launched a statewide initiative in early 2006 to advocate for and strengthen arts education in California public schools. Through this initiative, CCSESA urges every school to weave dance, music, theatre, and visual arts into the fabric of the curriculum providing all students with a comprehensive education, kindergarten through high school aligned to the *Visual and Performing Arts Framework for California Public Schools*. CCSESA is working at the national, state, regional, and local levels to impact change in arts education.

The CCSESA Arts Initiative continues to collaborate and partner with other education and nonprofit organizations at all levels to tie arts education firmly into the core curriculum. This document is a celebration of progress in improving and increasing arts education throughout the state of California through the 58 county offices of education. It is intended to provide a glimpse of the excellent work being done to bring instruction in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts to all of the students in California’s public schools. The document also serves another purpose. Along with county snapshots on arts education that will inform, inspire, and hopefully provoke you to get involved, the information reveals the statewide arts education network and supporting infrastructure needed to provide leadership training, program planning, curriculum, professional development, and resources in arts education. The regional highlights in this booklet are organized by county service regions and were provided by county office arts leaders and staff. Written in their own words, these short descriptions reveal different approaches in reaching our diverse student populations in California.

To learn more about the CCSESA Arts Initiative and to access information on arts education please visit the CCSESA Arts Initiative website at [www.ccsesaarts.org](http://www.ccsesaarts.org). We invite you to visit a new repository of *Creativity at the Core* professional learning modules that were developed by regional lead county offices of education in partnership with arts organizations from across California sponsored by the California Arts Council and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Also, CCSESA has been collaborating with key arts and education organizations through a collective impact model called CREATE CA, a coalition of dedicated and innovative leaders who understand that together we have the power to create lasting change for every California student. Its mission is to ensure ALL students are able to reach their full potential by advancing an education model that promotes creativity and the arts for the workforce of tomorrow. To view the Blueprint for Creative Schools, a set of recommendations focused on arts education, go to: [http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/documents/bfcsreport.pdf](http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/documents/bfcsreport.pdf).

We extend our appreciation to all those who provided the content for this publication and to the leaders responsible for the rich tapestry of programs represented in this document. I want to especially thank Peter Birdsall, Sandra Morales, Jessie Kroll-Yoa and Amanda Taggart for their support of this CCSESA Arts Initiative publication. Also, I would like to recognize the graphic artist, Carrie Dennis for her continued outstanding creative work. We are especially grateful to CCSESA’s Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee (CISC) and our Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Subcommittee for their amazing support of the ARTS.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge all 58 County Superintendents of Schools for their ongoing support of this initiative intent on benefiting California’s students.

*Sarah Anderberg, Director, CCSESA Arts Initiative*

*California County Superintendents Educational Services Association*

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Every young person in America deserves a complete and competitive education that includes the arts. America’s global stature, culture of innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit depend on the strength of a world-class education system. Perhaps now more than ever – as the country becomes increasingly diverse, the world more interconnected, and the workplace more oriented around technology and creativity – arts education is key to such a system and to ensuring students’ success in school, work, and life.

– Arts Education Partnership, Preparing Students for the Next America
REGION 1 ▶ NORTH COAST

REGION 1 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
Mr. Jeff Harris, Del Norte County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Garry Eagles, Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Brock Falkenberg, Lake County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Warren Galletti, Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Steven Herrington, Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools

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**The Arts are Alive and Thriving in Del Norte County**

Del Norte County Unified School District, as a single district county, promotes the arts at all levels from preschool through high school. Under the new leadership of Jeff Harris, Del Norte COE funds one-of-a-kind teacher training in ceramics from our local master Harley Munger. His distinctive, original style is responsible for the creation and installation of over 240 beautiful ceramic murals in Del Norte County. Over half of the murals are in our schools, designed and built by the students themselves, and supported by agencies including the Humboldt Area Foundation, the Wild Rivers Foundation, the Elk Valley Rancheria, the Rotary Club, and Coast Central Credit Union. Author Kevin Bruce features our town’s famous murals in the book *Large Art in Small Places: Discovering the California Mural Towns*. This specialized training with Harley will enable these teachers to create more of these uniquely designed and stunning ceramic murals in our schools, thus continuing Harley’s rich legacy here and in California.

**Expanded Programs**

Existing arts-based programs continue to thrive and new programs are being created as awareness of the value of arts education increases among students, teachers, staff, administrators, and our community. Experimental and pilot programs are showing such tremendous benefits on multiple levels, that these arts programs are not being cut, but rather expanded, and all this in a small town with a population of only 7,000 – 4,000 of whom are prisoners.

Del Norte COE is happy to announce that this year, for the first time since 1994, Crescent Elk Middle School has a Visual Arts program serving 242 seventh and eighth grade students. The curriculum includes drawing, painting, color theory, printmaking, and multi-cultural art history. The Visual Elements and Principles of Design guide students’ creation and analysis of art. One of several special projects is a new, annual celebration of Native American Heritage Month in September. Students study turn-of-the-century photographs by Edward Curtis of North American native peoples. They also research and write essays about indigenous traditions and cultures, and then create portraits on grey or brown paper using dark pencil and white charcoal. The element of Value, or the lightness and darkness of tones or colors, is thoroughly explored. Students are currently working on self-portraits in the style of Chuck Close and monoprints of Frida Kahlo. The story and art of Frida really touched many students, one of whom wrote, “Frida expressed her pain through her art. Instead of crying, she painted herself crying. Drawing saved her from being sad.”

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*Del Norte County is an ethnically diverse, remote and isolated community. By incorporating the arts from kindergarten through twelfth grade and ensuring student access to a wide variety of artistic experiences and connections, we’re not only enhancing our students’ understanding of math and language but enabling them to experience the world in all of its nuanced complexity and history. The arts are avenues through which our students uniquely engage their passions and personalities with society as a whole.*

– Mr. Jeff Harris, Del Norte County Superintendent of Schools
The support for the arts at Crescent Elk is so splendid that its new principal, Paige Swan, even purchased professional display rails for our hallways that now allow year-round ability to showcase student artwork on a much larger scale. The response from students, staff, and visitors to each new exhibit is always enthusiastic.

The Crescent Elk Music Program continues to shine because of its administration’s commitment to keeping a full-time music teacher. There is a jazz band as well as a general band for each grade level, with over 100 students participating. The wide variety of music that students learn includes old English folk songs, pop music, 1950s Doo-Wop, and music from films such as *Star Wars* and *Jurassic Park*. Every other year students travel to San Francisco to see performances such as *The Blue Man Group* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Many of our small-town students have never before traveled outside of our county and this opportunity opens their eyes to the larger world.

The Alternative Education Art program under the Del Norte COE is one of the district’s pilot programs that continues to be funded annually. This program is now in its third year for all students in the programs including Bar O Boys’ Ranch, Elk Creek Juvenile Hall, Community Day School, and Sunset High School. This is such an important program because it reaches kids who have had difficult life situations and had shut down to academic subjects. Art helps them open back up to life and rekindles their interest in school.

Del Norte High School’s Winter Dance Concert entitled “Limitless” featured 25 pieces with five different themes. Dance students choreographed all but the final piece. One of the themes was to communicate to the audience the realities of living with a disability, which students did by dancing in blindfolds. “They’ll dance without music to represent what it could be like to dance with a disability. The students wanted to do a section that had meaning behind it,” said dance teacher Katie Peña.

Del Norte High’s Drama department this year is working with themes from the bizarre to the tragic. In the fall, they put on the madcap *Brothers Grimm* Spectaculathon that included almost all of the more than 100 fairy tales attributed to the Brothers Grimm. In April they will be dealing with eternal ideas such as being aware of time and noticing the smaller pleasures in life as they produce the classic *Our Town*. The DNHS Music department dazzles our community with their steel band, jazz band, concert band, and madrigal choir.

Del Norte COE is proud to share that the music program at one of its elementary schools, Bess Maxwell, received a generous grant from the Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation! The grant purchased many brand-new musical instruments that gave many more children the opportunity to learn to play music. Additionally, music program staffing at Del Norte elementary schools is being increased.

This year 11 teachers and administrators from Del Norte County attended the first annual STEAM Conference in neighboring Humboldt County. This brilliantly cutting-edge conference engaged our own creativity as we made hand-built robots and played with Squishy Circuits and Arduinos, introducing many of us to the Maker Movement. The STEAM Conference opened our minds to worlds of innovative ways for us to revolutionize our classrooms in order to engage our students and offer them the creative edge they will need to thrive in this 21st century. The STEAM Conference also inspired us this year to expand our 4th annual Student Art Show to include a Mini-Maker Fair as well that will involve not only students but also the community! We are excited about the promise of expanding the beauty and healing nature of the arts for all our students and community.
We strive to provide the highest quality arts-related professional development for teachers as well as promote many diverse opportunities for student engagement. Our recent successful regional STEAM conference, emphasizing the importance of the arts in these core curriculums, continues this effort. I am pleased to say we have seen increased momentum in recent years by a growing number of students participating in arts programming and educators at all grade levels taking part in arts-related professional development. We are committed to local community partnerships and collaborations and as a community, we are truly picking up STEAM!

– Dr. Garry Eagles, Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools

The Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) continues to support and increase the arts opportunities for teachers, administrators, students and community members this 2015-2016 school year. HCOE hosted the region’s first STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) Conference for over 270 teachers, administrators, artists, makers and community members from 10 counties. The funds for the conference were subsidized by HCOE and CCSESA. Humboldt State University also offered one unit of extended education credit to participants.

Professional Development

Professional Development is still ongoing for teachers in discrete arts subjects. Hands-on workshops for Music, Visual Arts, and Theatre are still offered to any teachers in the region that wish to participate. A dance professional learning module for the Creativity at the Core grant was completed last year. Additional dissemination of the module is ongoing, including sending dance artists into teachers’ classrooms for ongoing coaching in partnership with our Reserved SEATS (Students Engaged in the Arts Through Schools) program.

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Partnerships and Collaborations

HCOE continues to be a hub for arts education on the North Coast as a result of multiple collaborations with the Humboldt Arts Council, higher education, public radio, community arts organizations, local businesses, PTA/PTO’s, school districts and neighboring county offices of education.

HCOE partnered with the Eureka Symphony to create the Schools to Symphony program, offering schools free opportunities for students to complete a course of study culminating in a concert with the Eureka Symphony. This was the cornerstone project of what is now Reserved SEATS. Schools to Theatre and Schools to Dance have enjoyed similar success – curricula is delivered and then students see a performance based on the curriculum, as costs to attend are underwritten by HCOE and CCSESA funds. This spring, HCOE unveiled the fourth cornerstone event, Schools to Studio, in which a professional videographer, Mahalo Video, captured footage in various artists’ studios. This was delivered to schools as the pre-curriculum prior to sending guest artists into schools to work with teachers and classrooms. All of these events are no-cost to schools in Humboldt County: public, private and charter.

HCOE also partners with the Humboldt Alliance for Arts Education (HAAE), which advocates for arts education and helps inform the community about the arts learning being offered locally, as well as its positive impacts. HAAE works in conjunction with the Humboldt Arts Council Arts and Education Committee to further opportunities for all students.

HCOE continues to collaborate with the North Coast California Music Educators Association and the Rising Stars Foundation to coordinate the annual All-County Music Festival with participation from 400 students in five ensembles from Humboldt and Del Norte counties.

HCOE combined efforts with Rising Stars Foundation and the Redwood Acres Fair to offer the first Best of Humboldt County Youth Expo. An aspect of this expo was the Youth Arts Festival in which 800 visual art entries and 240 student performers participated last June.
We are fortunate in Lake County to have many talented educators who came together in our recovery following the Valley Fire. These teachers continue to address the needs of their students and integrate new opportunities for students to shine and express their learning. We are very proud of the visual and performing arts that are integrated into our classrooms and schools.

– Mr. Brock Falkenberg, Lake County Superintendent of Schools

Educating the Whole Child

Lake County schools continue to work diligently to address the needs of the whole child to include academic success, early childhood education and varied opportunities, throughout and after the school day to include art in various forms.

Shanna Lee, an art teacher at Clear Lake High School, describing her art program, shared an extraordinary example, “Clear Lake High School’s Art department has a very diverse program of ceramics and art, consisting of both beginning and advanced students. We aim to foster creativity, self-expression and an understanding of the arts in our world. Young artists study various media and explore many styles and techniques. Many of the students take more than two years of art and ceramics developing their talents and passion for their favorite media.”

Konociti Education Center is in its first full year of operation and continues to provide art integration for students through the Art Magnet program (Grades 4-8), as well as through community and school performances in the Konociti Education Center facility. This facility has opened its doors for events from teacher professional development to community theatre.
Lake County suffered one of the worst fires in the history of California during the beginning of the school year. Various schools have worked to address the whole child and the additional needs brought by the destruction through community events, carnivals and outpouring of support. Some of the students who were indirectly affected by the fire expressed their feelings through art work and were honored to receive publication of their work in the local newspaper.

The Lake County Office of Education after school program has also been flourishing with students eager to explore the arts. Students in several After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs participate in a two month dance class. This class focuses not only on the memorization of routine, but also on specific vocabulary and social skills needed to work well with a partner.

“Count Von Devlin,” Clear Lake High School Senior Art Student

Clear Lake High School has amazing and talented students with passion and drive.

“The arts are among the six basic academic subjects. The arts are valuable in all areas of study because they engage the imagination, foster flexible ways of thinking, develop disciplined effort, and build self-confidence.”

– The College Board
The arts are so important in our schools. They are an important part of a well-rounded education for every student. The knowledge and skills learned in the arts helps prepare our students for life.

– Mr. Warren Galletti, Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools

Arts Integration Professional Learning
Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) focuses on providing arts integration through topical workshops and training series as well as providing one-on-one assistance to teachers upon request. Our ELA and Math workshops have included visual arts, poetry and writing, and the use of technology such as creating story boards. In addition to arts integration throughout our workshops, the student events that are sponsored and coordinated by MCOE all include the arts. Mock Trial, Poets in the Schools, Young Authors’ Grant, Get Arts in the Schools Program (GASP), and the Science Fair are examples of events and programs that are either entirely art focused or have artist elements that weave together disciplines through the arts. Mock Trial, for instance, has a courtroom artist element in where students participate in a courtroom artist role during the mock trial competition. For the Science Fair, students throughout the county provide artistic representation of how science has impacted their lives.

A Compelling Example
One story in particular articulates the importance of these programs within the lives of students in Mendocino County. The county coordinator and lead poet teacher of Poetry in the Schools, Blake More, has worked as a poet teacher in the schools since 2000 and has reached thousands of our county’s students. Since 2001 under her direction, Mendocino County has hosted 14 countywide high school poetry slams, and this year is our 6th year participating in Poetry Out Loud, the national poetry recitation competition spearheaded by the National Endowment for the Arts, and an annual countywide anthology of student work.

Recently, while working in Michael Riedell’s Creative Writing at Ukiah High School, Blake had a sixteen-year-old male student approach her after class and tell her this story:

“I was in the Mendocino County Juvenile Hall this whole summer. I was going crazy, but then I found this huge stack of youth poetry books. Students from all over our county were in it, and there was so much honesty and hard feelings, good feelings too. I know you were involved, cause your name was on every single one. I want you to know that reading these books helped me realize that I am not alone and that gave me hope. Really, I want you to know that these books saved my life.”
Then he smiled, gave her a big hug and said “I love you.” Blake was floored, and she says the exchange brought tears to her eyes. “Sure, I’ve had students go to Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley, etc, but always, when I reach at-risk marginalized students, I know that teaching arts in the schools is absolutely what I am supposed to do.”

**Artists in the Schools**

There are many artists throughout the County that dedicate their time and energy to our students. One example of such dedication comes from one of our rural districts. Each year Arena Union Elementary School hosts a cross-age integrated Language Arts, Science and Visual Arts project which brings poetry writing and bookmaking including decorative papermaking, miniature printmaking, lettering, illustration and cut paper collage making into elementary and junior high school classrooms. This ongoing project partnership between the school, classroom teachers and Arts Educator, Cathleen Michaels, brings alive the joy of learning through the arts by engaging students in self-expression which draws on prior knowledge and encourages them to make new discoveries while supporting Language Arts and Science curricula. Through developing research, critical thinking and creative problem solving skills, students strengthen language skills and build leadership skills. The project starts with older students who then serve as Art Buddy mentors with the younger students. It supports family engagement through an opportunity for families to participate in the school learning community at a culminating school-wide spring Open House book exhibit and poetry reading event. The project is supported by the school’s reading specialist Kristi Hahn as part of the school’s goal of increasing reading and writing proficiency levels through the school-wide blended service model that integrates all support services to more effectively and equally educate all students. The project has received funding from the Arts Council of Mendocino County Get Arts in the School Program (GASP), the Arena Union Elementary School Site Council, the Redwood Coast Education Foundation, the Gualala Rotary Club and the Soroptimist International of Mendocino-Sonoma Coast.

**The Arts Heal**

Art is a way that the community heals after tragic events. For the students at Grace Hudson School, the creation of a mosaic was that healing tool. In collaboration with GASP artist, Elizabeth Raybee, the students designed and built a mosaic at their school to honor the lives of two of their classmates who had recently lost their lives.

These programs and student stories are only a small glimpse into how the arts have impacted and continue to support our students both academically and personally. MCOE thanks all of the teachers, families, and community members for their continued enthusiasm and passion to ensure educational success for all students.
Now more than ever, our students must be dynamic and imaginative in order to succeed the 21st century workforce. Excellent math, science and reading skills can put a student on a path to college acceptance or a great job, but so often it’s that extra creative spark that sets them apart. That’s why we must ensure that arts have a place as a fundamental building block of every child’s education.

– Dr. Steven Herrington, Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools

The future of the county resides in our children. To that end, their education is our greatest responsibility. Sonoma County is committed to working hard for all children by providing leadership through quality services to schools, districts, students, parents, and our community. We know that high quality education helps students to find meaning and purpose in their educational experience and will ultimately provide them with the necessary skills and background to become dynamic, creative members of a 21st century global society.

**Arts Integration and Professional Learning**

We are in a unique situation with the intersection of the new California Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and 21st Century Learning that allows for schools and districts to engage in meaningful dialogue about the value of arts integration into the core curriculum. The Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) is committed to providing our schools and districts with high quality professional learning opportunities to support arts education at all levels. We will be providing district and site administrators with the information they need to make informed decisions about how they might use their LCAPs to support arts education. We are providing teachers with training modules for integrating art into core curriculum and assisting them to make the connection between arts integration and 21st century skills.

**Access to Arts Education**

In addition, SCOE is undertaking a long-term study of equity issues in our schools and districts. Ensuring that all of our students, regardless of socio-economic status have access to the same high-quality arts education will be a cornerstone of the work. This year’s 21st Century Institute will focus on STEAM education. It will provide teachers from around the county the opportunity to engage in meaningful experiences and will equip them with the tools they need to integrate art into
science, engineering, technology and math. We believe that when schools nurture student creativity, they foster inquisitiveness, persistence, imagination and collaboration, leading to improved motivation, attendance, and academic attainment.

**Partnerships and Collaborations**

SCOE partners with the Santa Rosa Symphony to provide teachers and schools with access to music in the classroom through several significant programs. Free Concerts for Youth provides three concert opportunities during the school year and typically reaches over 5,000 students a year. The Elementary School Listening Program is a five-year program based on listening to five minutes of music a day. It is in over 400 of the county’s elementary classrooms. The Santa Rosa Symphony sends small ensembles to perform at school assemblies and sponsors four elementary schools to receive all of these services for free. Their Simply Strings program provides economically disadvantaged students, grades 2-6, with two hours of after school violin instruction Monday through Friday for five years. We also support the extensive educational efforts of the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts.

As a recipient of the renowned Kennedy Center’s Partners in Education Grant, the Wells Fargo Center works with SCOE, Healdsburg Unified School District, and Santa Rosa Charter School for the Arts to bring top teaching artists from around the country to lead dynamic arts-integrated professional development workshops. This program is based on the belief that the professional development of teachers is an essential component of any effort designed to increase the artistic literacy of young people. Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, SCOE will be partnering with the Wells Fargo Center and the Alameda County Office of Education to bring the Integrated Learning Specialist Program to teachers in Sonoma County. In addition, SCOE is in its third year of collaborative work with Sonoma State University on a Maker Certification Program.

The Five Minute Film Festival is a countywide event that provides an opportunity for K-12 students to demonstrate learning in a 21st century context and showcase their work in front of community audience. To participate, students create, as individuals or groups, short videos (up to five minutes long) on a designated theme and submit them to SCOE for judging by a celebrity panel. The top films debut at a spring film festival.

The theme for this year’s Cardboard Challenge, a collaboration between SCOE and Sonoma Country Day School, held October 10th, 2015, was: “It takes a village to create...Imaginopolis.” Participants were given the opportunity to cooperatively create an imaginary city called Imaginopolis. They were able to create at the event or bring something to share that they had made in advance. Cardboard, arts and crafts supplies and basic tools were provided. The event was open to builders, creators, and makers of all ages. It was a fun-filled family event open to all K-12 students and families in Sonoma County.
The rapidly evolving global economy demands a dynamic and creative workforce. The arts and its related businesses are responsible for billions of dollars in cultural exports for this country. It is imperative that we continue to support the arts and arts education both on the national and local levels. The strength of every democracy is measured by its commitment to the arts.

– Charles Segars, Former CEO of Ovation
REGION 2  ■  NORTHEASTERN

REGION 2 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
Mr. Tim Taylor, Butte County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tracey Quarne, Glenn County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Patty Gunderson, Lassen County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Mike Martin, Modoc County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Terry Oestreich, Plumas County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tom Armelino, Shasta County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Kermit R. Walters, Siskiyou County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Richard R. DuVarney, Tehama County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Bettina Blackwell, Trinity County Superintendent of Schools

REGION 2 ARTS LEAD
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I know from deep personal experience as an artist, from the evidence I have seen in schools, and from the research, that arts education must be a vital part of every child’s education. In fact, I believe the future of our economy is based on developing a generation of people who think artistically, creatively, and critically.

– Mr. Tim Taylor, Butte County Superintendent of Schools

Butte County Office of Education and Performing Arts Technical Assistance Approach

The Butte County Office of Education (BCOE) is leading a new arts initiative to help reinvigorate the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) in Prek-12 education in each of the 15 school districts in our county. In the 2014-15 school year, BCOE launched its first-ever Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Program in its 150-year+ history. This is a bodacious undertaking and is exactly what is needed to ensure that every child, in every classroom, in every school in Butte County, receives a well-rounded education inclusive of the arts.  Arts education helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, imagination and creativity, discipline and determination, alternative ways to communicate, and cross-cultural understanding.  During the last recession, many of our public schools saw their visual and performing arts programs cut completely, despite numerous studies showing that exposure to the arts can help with academics too.  Over the past year-and-a-half, BCOE’s VAPA Program Coordinator, Nancy Silva, has been working diligently to develop and provide the technical assistance, professional development, resources, and partnerships needed to revive arts education in Butte County school districts.  Initial accomplishments include:

- A BCOE VAPA website full of relevant resources - [http://www.bcoe.org/divisions/ess/arts_education](http://www.bcoe.org/divisions/ess/arts_education)
- New BCOE VAPA Social Media sites including an active Facebook page - [https://www.facebook.com/BCOEartsed](https://www.facebook.com/BCOEartsed)
- Many Professional Learning opportunities for administrators and teachers annually [http://www.bcoe.org/divisions/ess/arts_education/v_a_p_a_professional_learning/](http://www.bcoe.org/divisions/ess/arts_education/v_a_p_a_professional_learning/)
- Arts education and integration technical assistance to schools and districts for arts planning and budgeting in districts’ Local Control Accountability Programs (LCAPs).
- Networks with educators, community arts organizations, and businesses
- Region 2 Leadership for the California County Superintendent’s Educational Services Association (CCSESA) Arts Initiative–supporting arts education in a total of nine northeastern California counties.
Student Art showcases in the county, online, and at BCOE including: the new BCOE Superintendent’s Annual Juried High School Art Show; student Singing in the Park; Strings Program development, educational outreach theater programs in partnership with the Chico Performances and the historic Oroville State Theatre, Kids’ Art Day, Salmon Festival Arts for Families, etc. as well as School and District Arts events.

Strategic Planning
In addition, a Butte County Strategic Arts Education Plan Steering Committee was convened this year to help develop a three-year countywide arts plan with support from the California Department of Education and CCSESA Arts. The final plan will be ready for adoption and dissemination to stakeholders in late spring 2016, amidst much fanfare.

The 2016-2019 Butte County Strategic Arts Education Plan will chart the course for actively supporting schools and districts in their efforts to provide high-quality arts education for all students from preschool through their senior year of high school, both within and outside the school day. The Strategic Arts Education Plan specifies a five prong approach to bringing about a renaissance in arts education:

1. Provide Technical Assistance to County, District, and School Leaders
2. Provide Support for Equitable Access to Arts Education and CTE – Arts, Media, and Entertainment (AME) (Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment).
3. Provide Quality Professional Learning Opportunities for administrators and teachers
4. Increase Funding, Resources, and Staffing
5. Increase Partnerships, Networking, and Advocacy

The Butte County Strategic Arts Education Steering Committee will review the strategic plan annually and update it as dynamic needs dictate and its successes evolve. With leadership from BCOE’s VAPA Program, districts and schools will be provided assistance with evaluating their arts programs, coaching to develop their own strategic arts education plans, and assistance with implementing their plans.

BCOE VAPA Arts Education Professional Learning Opportunities
BCOE offers high quality, student-focused professional development to district administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, art partners and parents in Butte County, CCSESA Region 2, and the state. Our Arts education and integration workshops cover topics in the fine arts, music, dance, theatre, and digital media using multiple formats, schedules, and incentives to encourage maximum participation. During the school year, we provide engaging full-day workshops, bi-monthly Dinner with Artist professional learning sessions, and synchronous and asynchronous online learning opportunities. During the summer, we provide multiple-day institutes. In addition, BCOE offers follow-up coaching, professional arts education learning communities for collegiality and collaborative exchange, and special trainings for administrators on evaluating school and district arts programs and supporting instruction in the arts.
The research shows that providing the Arts in Education enhances the total achievement of children. Each student is uniquely put together and must be given a variety of experiences to fully reach their potential. Lassen County proudly partners with our community members to provide those experiences.

– Ms. Patty Gunderson, Lassen County Superintendent of Schools

Partnership with Lassen County Arts Council

The Lassen County Office of Education (LCOE) believes that collaboration is the key to helping support students for the future in the area of Arts. We work with the Lassen County Arts Council to provide Artist in Residence, promote summer art experiences locally, and hands-on workshops during our family engagement opportunities. We also provide several opportunities for students to showcase their talents and creativity that they have experienced through the educational opportunities they have received. Through our collaboration with the Arts Council and local artists, we have been able to provide students the opportunity to experience various visual and performing arts opportunities.

By partnering with the local Arts Council, LCOE has been able to leverage resources, both material and financial, to benefit the students here in Lassen County. Through the school visits, artists have been able to share their talents and provide students with direct instruction to see a complete project. Students have had the opportunity to participate in local art camps throughout the summer receiving instruction in various mediums and techniques to produce various high-quality projects that they would otherwise not be exposed to. During our Lassen County Day of the Family, our premier family engagement day, families have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on Art Lab provided by the Lassen County Arts Council to also receive instruction and complete a project. The Art Lab is also a part of our mobile tinkering lab that travels to county schools to provide students with hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities. Each lab has been designed and prepared to provide a specific technique or medium experience for the student.
Quality School Programs

Lassen County schools have a deep sense of commitment to the Arts. Diamond View Middle School has had a 21 year history of providing students with the opportunity to participate in visual and performing arts through their yearly Drama Productions. The students and their director work tirelessly to prepare for the presentation with volunteer and family support. This year, the students designed and presented the complete production of the Lion King, Jr. The students experience the technical aspects, make-up, staging, set-design, prop design, and costuming. The students raise all of the funds to present the production.

Long Valley Charter School has a K-12 model for arts education that they engage their students in, from ballet to mosaics. This comprehensive approach to the arts is a highlight and huge benefit to the students of their school. They have also had the opportunity to showcase their work in galleries, and some have had their work published in various publications.

Lassen High School is also rich with the exposure and a commitment to the arts. It is home to a high-quality and award-winning graphic arts lab that prepares students for careers in the advertising, marketing, and graphic arts fields. Students are able to become certified in the Adobe suite and compete throughout the state and nation to share their skills and talents. This school also has a great performing arts department that focuses on guitar, jazz band, concert choir, drama, and dance. They also have a visual arts department that combines traditional methods with current trends to bring ceramics, wood working, and welding into their art. Traditional pencil, colored pencil, ink, watercolors, pastels, and Paper Mache also play a great role in enhancing the students’ educational experience.
We have so many great aspirations for our children and research has closely linked involvement in the arts with gains in reading, math, critical thinking, verbal skills and cognitive abilities, in addition to civic engagement, social and emotional development and academic achievement. We are so honored to share the wonderful attributes of Mrs. Frid’s digital art instruction. Thank you Mrs. Frid for offering quality experiences for our students!

– Ms. Terry Oestreich, Plumas County Superintendent of Schools

Technology Solutions Provide Deep Arts Learning

In Plumas County, we have had to think outside the box when trying to find highly qualified teachers to provide our students with art instruction. As a rural county in the far northern reaches of the state, we knew we had to be innovative in our recruiting practices. Technology has allowed us to bridge the gap between the instructors and the students, and in our county, nobody has harnessed the power of digital instruction like Danielle Frid, who teaches elementary, middle and high school art. She began her digital teaching program in the 2014-15 school year for Chester and Greenville after their art teacher resigned. Mrs. Frid currently teaches digitally from one school site in Quincy to Portola. Previously, Mrs. Frid was traveling to both communities, 35 miles apart during her prep time. Due to a new baby this school year and becoming burnt out from the driving, traveling every day became too much. It is a challenge for the district to hire a part-time teacher in two rural communities so Mrs. Frid offered to teach art to Portola digitally.

Mrs. Frid provides emails, lesson plans, rubrics, and handouts to facilitators who are with the students. She records her lessons and demonstrations with her ELMO document camera then edits and uploads them online. After students have completed assignments, their work is
Plumas County

sent via e-mail to be graded. Mrs. Frid has continued to travel one day a month to the distant site to check in with students and facilitators.

Recording lessons and uploading them is beneficial for all students, distant or not. If students are absent for any reason or need additional instruction, they can watch the recorded lessons. Sometimes Mrs. Frid even likes to implement the video lessons on laptops with students in class. Students can watch and simultaneously create while she checks for understanding and provides one-to-one assistance.

Mrs. Frid enjoys teaching to multiple sites in the county. It would be physically impossible for her to be everywhere at once, but with the help of technology, facilitators, and lots of communication, she is able to share her expertise with everyone.

“We look for students whose previous participation in the arts shows that they can make a substantial contribution to our academic community.”

– William R. Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions at Harvard University
Arts are an integral part of the educational process and often the component that keeps students coming to school.

– Mr. Tom Armelino, Shasta County Superintendent of Schools

The Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) supports 25 school districts and 11 charter schools with their fine arts programs. Students in Shasta County have the opportunity to be involved in numerous programs in visual and performing arts. SCOE showcases artwork from Shasta County students from September through May, which is enjoyed by employees, students, and the public. SCOE also coordinates public schools week where students’ work is displayed throughout the community.

Shasta County Best Practices

SCOE maintains an active partnership with the Turtle Bay Museum for a number of projects in the area combining music, science, and art. SCOE has also partnered with the Shasta County Library to display art collections obtained through the Schreder Planetarium.

Student musical theatre performances are also supported by SCOE; providing opportunities for students to perform at community events, at the county office, and other locations in the community.

As arts education moves in new directions using technology, SCOE looks forward to facilitating the implementation of an arts education and professional development distant learning module as part of Creativity at the Core, a CCSESA Arts Initiative grant project.
The arts have the potential to unify. They can speak in many languages without a translator. The arts do not discriminate. The arts can lift us all up.

– Barbara Jordan, Former Texas Congresswoman

People who can communicate through the subtleties of the arts will have the skills and understanding that our 21st century economy will require.

– Dr. Thomas H. Kean, Former President of Drew University
Tehama County Showcases Our Small Schools

The Tehama County Department of Education (TCDE) supports our seven local K-8 small schools to provide students with an opportunity to showcase their artistic talents. Each year students submit their visual art work to our office, where it is displayed to the public. The students are then invited to a one day Art Celebration event that includes docent tours of their artwork, art workshops, and a demonstration by a local artist. The event helps students build their understanding and appreciation for the arts and encourages them to further pursue their interest in this field of study.

The SERRF Expanded Learning Program

The Safe Education and Recreation for Rural Families (SERRF) Expanded Learning Program serves approximately 2,000 students in 25 school sites throughout Tehama County. SERRF utilizes instructors, skilled in specific areas, to teach students in six week segments. SERRF has contracted with the Royal Dance Academy to teach students at sites through hip hop and merengue music. Large group dance moves culminate in dance performances with family and friends. Tehama County Mental Health staff brings two dozen percussion instruments to sites engaging students in all age groups to work in rhythmic rounds and expression. An art instructor meets with similar grade level groups for six weeks of Zentangle art.

Students are encouraged to participate in annual writing and art contests offered by community groups. Students were invited to participate in the Lassen Association art contest for students to interpret images of Lassen National Park. Certificates and awards were given to all students who participated. Individual and group art is entered into the Tehama District Fair. Everyone receives a ribbon for participating with many red and blue ribbons being awarded for first and second places. These projects are viewed by thousands of people touring the exhibit.

Art is everything. Look around! It brings us together, yet allows for individual expression. Art is literacy and numeracy. Children need instruction and exposure to visual and performing arts. It will always be a part of their lives.

– Mr. Richard R. DuVarney, Tehama County Superintendent of Schools
The SERRF Program continues to implement Crayola's Champion Creatively Alive Children with a focus on the Common Core aligned 4 C's: creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration. The seven flexible training modules can be implemented in a series or separately to complement our academic components being taught.

**Makerspace**

The Tehama County Department of Education is bringing making not only to the students of Tehama County, but also to the community. TCDE has taken an active role in the Maker Movement by building a Makerspace within the TCDE building. Over the past year, thousands of people have visited the Makerspace to learn and explore things such as coding, circuitry, engineering, videography, and much more! The Maker Movement focuses on creating an environment where learning becomes more engaging, playful, experimental, and more joyful for the learner. These Makerspace activities encourage students to be expressive and to reflect and reiterate their ideas, which create an atmosphere that allows kids to gain deeper knowledge, to be fearless, and to take ownership over their learning.

This past summer TCDE joined with Expect More Tehama, The Tehama Arts Council, the Copy Center, and Rolling Hills Casino to create Tehama County’s first ever Maker Summer. This was a summer full of events, which allowed the community to be a part of the Maker Movement. TCDE played an active role in Movies at the Park, SERRF’s Summer of Making, community workshops, and even put on a Film Festival at the State Theatre. The biggest event of the summer was the Maker Showcase room at the Tehama County Fair. There were children creating paper rockets and cardboard arcades, having hot wheel track races, playing giant Jenga, and even the adults were joining in on the fun. A major highlight from the showcase was the Augmented Reality Sandbox created by Corning High School students. This summer was a blast for everyone involved and we look forward to more “maker” events in the future!
Trinity County not only supports, but encourages arts education within our schools. One of the most exciting programs we offer countywide is our Indian Day Celebration, which allows students from all over the county to learn about the traditional arts and lives of the local Native American population.

– Ms. Bettina Blackwell, Trinity County Superintendent of Schools

The Trinity County Office of Education (TCOE) supports the belief that participation in the arts is an effective way to address different modes of teaching and learning and is an essential component of the school curricula. Without education in the arts, there is a missing link in the development of the whole individual. To move arts education forward, it is vital to involve committed, highly qualified individuals who have administrative support that includes dedicated personnel, time and resources. TCOE supports a part-time arts coordinator position and it provides schools information on professional development opportunities, an annual countywide student art show, the maintenance of a Docent Arts Heritage Program available for use by all county teachers, the annual Indian Day celebration featuring traditional arts, and consultation and mentoring for teachers and artist educators.

**Trinity Embraces Local Native History**

The Trinity County Indian Education Advisory Committee plans and implements an annual Indian Day event. They create and distribute a curriculum guide for teachers linking Indian Day activities to California content standards in history/social science, reading/language arts, science, math, and the visual and performing arts. Indian Day, designed to honor the local tribes and Indian community, features hands-on activities involving 3rd and 4th grade students and teachers in authentic local arts, crafts, dance, storytelling, food and other traditions. Student and teacher participation includes pre and post classroom standard-based activities related to local native history, tradition and the arts.
The Arts Heritage Docent Program

The Trinity County Arts Heritage Docent Program consists of over 400 art reproductions divided into 70 portfolios. Portfolios are organized around themes and contain art prints and slides, videos, and CD’s as well as text on each work of art and artist. Portfolios cover a wide variety of subjects relating to art, music, history, math and social science curricula. Also included are suggestions for hands-on follow-up activities, enabling students to express what they have learned. When utilized creatively, this program addresses the five strands of the California Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards: artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing, and connections, relationships and applications. The Arts Heritage Docent Program, available for check out to all teachers and local community art instructors and artists, brings breadth and depth to a comprehensive arts education.

Programs and Opportunities

The annual Young Artist Showcase is a countywide visual arts exhibit featuring work from K-12th grade Trinity County students. Each district is invited to participate and select work at the site level. The show is held in the Highland Art Gallery in Weaverville, opening with an artist reception, and continues for one month each spring.

History Day is another annual event that is open to all students (grades 4-12) and exhibits a variety of artistic disciplines. Students are able to produce exhibits, websites, documentaries, and write/act performance scripts. History Day provides a unique outlet for students to creatively produce projects while focusing on academic standards.

With a rich music community, TCOE, along with the Trinity Arts Council, strives to bring in touring musical groups each year to introduce and expose students to a variety of musical genres and styles. This year, two traveling groups were brought in from the East Coast, specializing in classical and blues respectively. As a small county, many schools provide their own music instructors through grants and endowments and produce a variety of theatrical productions for students to participate in.

Our frontier mobile STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) team is on the move this year. Travelling to each school for the day, this team provides instruction and exposes students to hands-on STEAM activities. Students are able participate in multiple cross-strand activities such as designing 3D objects for printing, building their own ArtBots, and acting in front of a green screen. This program reaches K-8th grade students and is available to all county schools.
The Arts and Sciences essential to the prosperity of the State and to the ornament of human life have a primary claim to the encouragement of every lover of his country and mankind.

— George Washington, First President of the United States
REGION 3  ■  CAPITAL

REGION 3 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
Dr. Patrick Traynor, Alpine County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Mike West, Colusa County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Ed Manansala, El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Holly Hermansen, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, Placer County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Gordon, Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Merrill Grant, Sierra County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Bill Cornelius, Sutter County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jesse Ortiz, Yolo County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Josh Harris, Yuba County Superintendent of Schools

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Arts education is not restricted to aesthetics. Music and the performing arts and the visual arts when done completely are as rigorous as the other core subjects. We have an obligation to provide a comprehensive arts education as early as possible in a child's education.

– Dr. Patrick Traynor, Alpine County Superintendent of Schools

Alpine County Arts Programs

The Alpine County Office of Education, with strong support from the Board of Education and community, has one part time certificated music teacher and one part time certificated art teacher to provide professional development to all K-8 multiple subject teachers in its single district county. These specialists also directly teach district students in the fundamentals of the arts. In conjunction with the Board of Education, the County Superintendent of Schools has also hired a Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) specialist in music who assists the music teacher in creating and conducting small ensembles. Currently, all students in grades 5-8 in the county, for music, choose between playing an instrument for performing in a small ensemble or performing in a choir for musicals. The curriculum incorporates music theory aligned to state standards using a variety of instruments including the recorder and percussion instruments for basic rhythm and pitch fundamentals. Schoolwide musical performances are held at least semiannually and some students perform at community venues outside of school hours.

In the Visual Arts, all students receive instruction from a certificated visual arts teacher and have the opportunity to creatively express themselves while demonstrating an understanding of the seven elements of art and techniques taught and practiced. The elements include line, shape, form, value, color, texture, and space. Students learn how to apply these elements to enhance their artwork and are encouraged to use them in their regular classroom projects to add an artistic flair. A variety of mediums are used in projects including pencil, drawing pencil, colored pencil, charcoal pencil, crayon, watercolor pencil, watercolor paints, acrylic paint, oil pastels, scratchboard, copper and silver foiling, and rigid wrap for mask making.
**Partnerships**

The Alpine County Office of Education partners with the Tahoe Arts Project (TAP), a grass roots organization which brings professional performers to its local elementary school four times per year to demonstrate the entertainment value of the arts. TAP was established in 1987 by a group of parents, professional musicians and teachers to bring performing arts and cultural enrichment to schools in the South Lake Tahoe region and neighboring communities.

Additionally, every year the Alpine County Office of Education invites Brent Daniels, a keyboard performer/composer, to demonstrate how music and sounds can be digitized and arranged to produce compositions for incorporation into movies, video games, commercials, and songs.

**Summer Academy**

Alpine County has a four week summer academy where students produce a theme based video which includes a story board with drawings, diagrams, and descriptions. Students in grades 4-8 may use software code to create a program that includes illustrations and movements of characters on the computer screen.

**High School Offerings**

Students in grades 9-12 in Alpine County have three options for high school, all of which include the arts. Those that desire a comprehensive high school experience attend South Tahoe High School in El Dorado County or Douglas High School in Douglas County, Nevada. Both of these schools offer a wide range of visual and performing arts courses and programs for students who wish to further pursue and potentially specialize in the arts.

Students who choose Alpine County’s alternative high school have access to a three dimensional (3-D) printer that allows them to illustrate science and math measurement concepts such as vectors and scale. They also use it as an aid for graphic design in their Visual and Performing Arts classes and to create products from basic Computer Aided Design (CAD) software. With a high Native American population in Alpine County, many students are invited to use the 3-D printer to design traditional Native American symbols such as dream catchers.
Art is an essential component to every child’s development. It is a universal language and gives students the opportunity to express themselves creatively. In many of our county-wide programs and school districts, we work to enrich the lives of our students with artistic knowledge of the past and inspiration for the future.

– Dr. Ed Manansala, El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools

The El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) partners with local school districts and the community to provide leadership and resources that promote the arts throughout the county.

**EDCOE Innovation Grants**

Every year, EDCOE awards Innovation Grants directly to classrooms to help teachers enhance student engagement, provide innovative instruction and close the achievement gap. Several of these grants make it possible for teachers to expand their arts-based curriculum. In doing so, many socioeconomically disadvantaged students are able to learn about devices they may not see at home. Educators at South Tahoe High School utilize grant funding to guide students through the entire process of publishing a book – from writing and digital photography to online publication. At Gold Oak Elementary School, tablet devices are shared between first and second grade classrooms to deliver lessons on famous works of art. Third grade students at Sutter’s Mill Elementary School use iPads to edit videos and submit interactive book reports.
EDCOE Internships and Central Sierra Regional Occupation Programs

Through EDCOE’s Information Technology Department student interns gain digital video knowledge and skills while contributing to media production. Videos are created to share information about curriculum, professional development, the current state of education and more. Once footage is captured, student interns assist in every phase of production including video and sound editing. EDCOE programs partner with school districts to provide Central Sierra Regional Occupation Programs for secondary and adult students across the county. Career pathways prepare students to enter the workforce with the skills and competencies necessary to succeed, pursue advanced training in higher educational institutions, and/or upgrade existing skills and knowledge. A variety of pathways are offered including culinary arts and cosmetology.

El Dorado County Sugar Loaf Fine Arts Camp

EDCOE administers the Sugarloaf Fine Arts Camp which delivers outstanding arts instruction in a fun, safe and supportive camp environment. During the weeklong summer camp, approximately 400 students (grades 5-12) expand their skills in visual arts, theater, video, vocal, textile and various other arts such as digital photography. Campers participate in over four hours of daily instruction in their chosen art medium taught by a combination of certificated teachers and professional artists. Many El Dorado County teachers and camp alumni staff the camp and ensure attendees have the opportunity to explore new experiences during regular and elective classes. Due to a strong partnership with the Sugarloaf Station Foundation and the scholarships they provide, no student is denied access to this camp because of financial hardship.
As educators, we have a responsibility to provide students with opportunities to experience art in a variety of ways, to expand their horizons of knowledge and creativity, and to build a lifelong appreciation for the arts. A high quality visual and performing arts education that is taught by a qualified specialist and incorporates community partners will accomplish this as well as provide students with a more successful and rewarding experience at school.

– Ms. Holly Hermansen, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSOS) continues to offer new arts related programming and is in the process of developing new first-time programs. These programs include the Hallway of Student Art - now enhanced by the Educator Grant Program, Link Up Carnegie Hall - a program implemented by Music in the Mountains, Nevada County’s first STEAM Expo, and the re-emergence of the Nevada County Arts Council.

Improved funding has allowed the NCSOS office to implement the Educator Grant Program for the past two years. The RFP is streamlined, making for a simple process wherein teachers can request up to a $1,000 grant - available to Nevada County teachers who propose any idea that is sustainable and supports the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Implementation has been inspiring. We have now carried this one step further in asking schools who sign up to exhibit in the Hallway of Student Art – a hallway gallery at the NCSOS office - to demonstrate a link between their grant and the exhibit. The intertwining of curriculum of the two programs is wonderful to see, such as a study of the Malakoff Diggings assisted with photographs wherein cameras were provided with the grant money. Another example was a print making project where 8th graders did woodblock cuts of each vegetable planted in the school garden. With the grant funding, students were able to make prints using the printing press and also build boxes for the garden.
Link Up Carnegie Hall is New to Nevada County

Link Up Carnegie Hall is a new pilot program involving four schools which kicked off in January of 2015. The culminating concert featured each student in the audience participating by playing recorder with the orchestra, which was a powerful celebration of student learning. This year we have six schools participating. The program runs on a 3-year cycle: Orchestra Moves, Orchestra Rocks, Orchestra Sings. This program is made possible by Music in the Mountains in conjunction with the participating schools PTC support. Although curriculum and music are provided free from Carnegie Hall, there is expense in professional development for teachers, the orchestra, recorders, and busses to the culminating event. MIM covers the expense for professional development and the orchestra. The school covers recorders, and for the kick-off year the NCSOS office provided the busses.

STEAM Expo 2016

The NCSOS office has taken a new look at the traditional science fair and math tournament, both of which have existed in the same format for as long as anyone can remember. Much has changed in the world of science and math, which is why Nevada County proposed hosting a STEM Expo. The community is influenced enough by the arts that it only took one day to realize something was missing. At the first committee meeting the idea was presented to go from STEM to STEAM. It was unanimous to do so. The first Nevada County STEAM Expo is slated for April 8-9, 2016. This is a great platform to demonstrate the interconnectedness of the arts to every other discipline. Nevada County strongly believes that the arts play a critical role in everything we do.

Nevada County Arts Council

The Nevada County Arts Council has been making a comeback over the past few years. They have an education committee comprised of school administrators - active and retired, local arts agencies, and local artists. It is an on-going exploration to determine the fit between the Nevada County Arts Council and the NCSOS office. But the foundation for the relationship is set and there is energy for a new phase of arts in education in Nevada County. They are instrumental in promoting arts in the community by collaboration efforts, including the schools. They have led the way to get a grant that will put three local artists in schools. This is a first great step in moving back to an ‘Artists in the Schools’ program, which has been absent for a number of years.
There is a lot of evidence to support the fact that arts education provides learners with greater self-esteem, with more motivation, enhanced emotional expression, and an appreciation of diversity.

– Mr. David Gordon, Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools

Sacramento County Office of Education Supports Educator Development

Sacramento County Office of Education’s approach to assisting school districts in the area of arts education is to work with them in identifying areas of support as they implement arts education. Areas such as teacher development to assist with supporting teachers in deepening understanding of arts integration has been supported through providing ongoing staff development through county wide workshops and summer arts institutes, designed to provide ongoing knowledge building and instructional strategies for the implementation of arts into the classroom.

County Arts Forum

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) has formed a county Art Forum to focus on the implementation of art education throughout the region. The Art Forum identifies projects that can be supported by the members and also projects that can be jointly supported. Members of the Art Forum are Twin Rivers Unified School District, Sacramento Unified School District, Elk Grove Unified School District, San Juan Unified School District, Folsom Cordova Unified School District, California Alliance for Arts Education, and the California State PTA.
Partnerships and Collaborations

Some key projects include identifying teachers for arts education, selection of regional principals who are leading in Arts Education and eligible to receive the Principal Arts Leadership Award (PAL Award), and a county region summer art institute that featured K-12 art integrated lessons and connections with regional arts organization partners.

Principal Arts Leadership (PAL) Award

SCOE and members of the County Arts Forum select school principals to honor with the Principal Arts Leadership (PAL) Award and recognize their leadership in advancing arts education in Sacramento County. Principals are nominated by community members, educational staff members and students to be reviewed for their leadership in the arts. Principals are reviewed in the following areas: Arts Program, Evidence of Leadership, Arts Learning, Community Involvement and Extent of Influence to recreate or initiate similar programs. Those selected in the region are honored by the Sacramento County Board of Education, as well as at their sites and school districts.

State Professional Learning Offering

SCOE partnered with CCSESA and the California Department of Education to offer a statewide professional learning opportunity entitled Creativity at the Core: Integrating the Visual and Performing Arts with Language Arts. Over 100 educators from across California participated in this innovative learning day to expand knowledge of how the visual and performing arts can promote 21st century academic achievement through integration across content areas. Participants also benefited from author and presenter, Dr. Lisa Donavon, a national expert on arts education.
The research is clear on the importance the arts can play in a student’s success. A quality arts education program in particular for our most at-risk students is a strong academic enhancement that can make a difference. YCOE will continue to be an advocate for the arts in the classroom.

– Dr. Jesse Ortiz, Yolo County Superintendent of Schools

Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE) advocates for, and encourages arts instruction for students throughout the county. The arts are an essential academic component in all students’ education.

YoloArts
A key partner in this advocacy is the nonprofit organization, YoloArts, the county arts council. YoloArts has been working with schools throughout the county to provide standards aligned art instruction in public schools, specifically targeting those schools with high populations of socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

YoloArts provides artist-in-residence art teaching education for our students at Dan Jacobs School, located in the Yolo County Juvenile Hall and at Cesar Chavez Community School. Last year, YoloArts coordinated the installation of a mural at Greengate School for Exceptional Children, after working and consulting with the staff and students of the school.

The California Arts Council recently awarded YoloArts a Jump StArts grant for arts education at the Yolo County Juvenile Hall for the 2015-16 school year. A partnership between Yolo County Probation, YCOE, and YoloArts will support two 12-week sessions of visual art, music and performing arts education to these incarcerated students and culminate in a student designed mural to be installed by artist and assistant UC Davis professor, Maceo Montoya.
Visual and Performing Arts Programs

YoloArts’ programs served almost 2,000 students last school year. These ongoing programs include:

Artists in Schools is an artist-in-residency program in the ceramic arts. Students in grades K-6, guided by local professional artists, learn the science, history and technique of ceramic art. Students create, learn to critically reflect on, and exhibit their artwork. This program is YoloArts’ longest running artist-in-residence program in Yolo County.

ArtMix is an artist-in-residency program featuring local professional artists. Participating school sites select a visual or performing arts discipline for school-wide focus during the 6-12 week residencies. Students gain confidence as well as the opportunity to develop, apply and fine-tune artistic skills. Each residency culminates in a final art exhibition or performance, and many partner schools choose to install a student created public art work (often a ceramic or painted mural) at the school. Another component of this program is called Seeding Art for Change, a farm and art based curriculum connecting school children to agriculture, a common denominator for all of Yolo County’s communities.

Blues in the Schools is a Sacramento Blues Society program that brings this distinctively American form of music – the blues - into the classroom. The program consists of a lecture/concert series delivered by professional musicians. This musical experience engages teachers and students with the history, culture and musical genre of the Blues. Several high schools in the county participate in the program. In recent years, the Blues in the Schools program has been integrated into the curriculum at Yolo County Juvenile Hall and at Cesar Chavez Community School.

Poetry Out Loud is a statewide poet project that culminates in a national recitation contest for high school students and is administered in Yolo County by YoloArts. Student participants interpret, memorize, and recite three poems within a competition framework that starts in the classroom. The California Arts Council hosts the California statewide competition each spring in Sacramento.
“The precise role of the artist, then, is to illuminate that darkness, blaze roads through that vast forest, so that we will not, in all our doing, lose sight of its purpose, which is, after all, to make the world a more human dwelling place.”

— James Baldwin, Author
REGION 4 ■ BAY

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Ms. Karen Sakata, Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Barbara Nemko, Napa County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Richard Carranza, San Francisco County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Anne E. Campbell, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Jay Speck, Solano County Superintendent of Schools

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I am proud of the sustained commitment on the part of ACOE staff and partners to create models for teaching, learning and integration that include all of the components necessary to help educators successfully implement new standards, assessments and collaborative relationships for student success. Our networks and professional learning opportunities recognize and build upon the assets that all students and teachers bring to Alameda County schools, and creatively engage our communities in solutions and strategies that work.

– Ms. L. Karen Monroe, Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

The Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership of the Bay Area
The Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership of the Bay Area (Alliance), launched in 1999, includes 50 organizations and over 100 individuals, working to engage the region around the importance of arts learning for every young person. As schools make important shifts that accompany adoption of the Common Core, performance based assessments, and Local Control Accountability Plans, the Alliance is providing professional development resources across Alameda County to demonstrate how the arts are key to helping students develop habits of discipline, perseverance, creativity, reflection, critical thinking, collaboration and college/career readiness. This network of schools, districts, organizations and individual leaders, continues to work toward equitable access to high quality arts learning opportunities for all children, because they understand that high quality arts integration means high quality learning opportunities for the students of Alameda County.

The Alliance has operated on the foundational premise that no one individual or group acting in isolation can solve the complex systemic problems in public education. In more than a decade, the Alliance has progressed in an intentional arc: from partnerships, to collaborations, to networks of influence, towards where it is now; creating a vision and structure for collective impact. The Alliance has received a grant from National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to do more by working together in new ways so that the individual efforts of its organizations and programs are supported and realized. The NEA
grant allows the Alliance to work with collective impact innovator, Paul Born, from the Tamarack Institute, who will guide a year-long process to: create a community plan, develop a governance structure to support it, develop a funding plan, and staff a structure to carry the work forward. These efforts are to support the new mission of the Alliance:

*By 2022, each and every child is successfully engaged in creative and active learning, both in and out of school, in preparation for college, career and community life.*

**The Integrated Learning Specialist Program**
The Integrated Learning Specialist Program (ILSP) is a trans-disciplinary set of courses that envisions and nurtures new paradigms for teaching and learning. This program leverages tools and strategies that cultivate emergent dispositions and provokes new thinking about the intersections between art and education. Since 2009, ILSP has served over 1,700 educators from 70 schools in 27 districts. 30% of participants have been administrators, 50% have been K-12 teachers, and 20% have been teaching artists. ILSP is rooted in critical pedagogy, making clear the understanding that liberation is directly tied to education and the dismantling of old paradigms. ILSP courses provide educators with research-based frameworks and practice-proven strategies for supporting culturally relevant integrated learning across the curriculum. Teachers participate in arts-based research as they gain the tools and knowledge to apply ongoing formative and summative performance based assessment. In 2014 the ILSP made a commitment to specifically serve underserved/marginalized communities. To that effort ACOE was awarded a US Department of Education, Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination Program grant, locally referred to as School Transformations Through the Arts (STTArts).

**School Transformations Through the Arts**
STTArts is a four-year collaboration between ILSP, in partnership with local media network, KQED, to support a school-wide model for students to learn through the visual, digital and performing arts by directly supporting shifts in teaching and learning that nurture integrated learning theories and practices. ILSP faculty and staff are supporting two high-need middle schools in Oakland Unified School District, Alliance Academy and Roots International Academy. STTArts adapts the ILSP courses to train classroom teachers and administrators to teach subjects such as math, science, social studies, and history, using the arts as a framework with a goal to help students enter into their studies in a way that is engaging, relevant, and lasting. After every educator and administrator in each school completes the series of ILSP courses, follow-up coaching and professional development is offered on-site to support the implementation of art-centered integrated learning in every classroom.

This work is at the heart of ACOE’s mission to assure high quality education for all youth, especially those who have been marginalized, through the use of inclusive strategies and the highest quality art-centered pedagogical practices.
The arts impact every facet of our society and are an essential part of a comprehensive educational curriculum. Childhood exposure to the arts is correlated with adult success related to creativity, innovation and problem-solving. All students deserve the opportunity to take part in the arts in school, and in their communities.

— Ms. Karen Sakata, Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools

Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) works collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure that all students are college and career ready. Our approach to develop and support the arts is through its integration into the core curriculum. As part of CCCOE’s Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) Initiative, we work with local foundations, grant-making organizations and resident art groups to provide assistance and information to all districts in the county. Professional learning opportunities are offered by our community partners, such as KQED and the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA). CCCOE also promotes opportunities for student participation through video challenges, art contests and workshops.

The CCCOE’s Golden Gate Community School is partnering with Alameda County Office of Education in a professional development series that will lead to an Integrated Learning Specialist Certificate for community school educators. Integrated learning introduces learners to culturally relevant content through contemporary arts and arts practices. It uses authentic forms of ongoing assessment practices in which students show what they know through performances of understanding. Integrated Learning professional development helps educators to learn the cognitive cultural strategies to reach every child. Based on Harvard’s Project Zero: Teaching for Understanding, Studio Thinking, and Making Learning Visible, the program introduces educators to inquiry as a means to develop ideas, engage imagination, and redesign curriculum units into art-centered integrated learning experiences that honor the culture and competencies of students in diverse contexts and communities. This series has been customized to meet the needs of CCCOE’s Community School educators, and is intended to serve as a pilot and model for other community school settings.

The Arts are promoted and celebrated throughout the county’s 18 districts.

Liberty High School’s Public Art and Design Academy

Liberty High School’s Public Arts and Design Academy is a California Partnership Academy, and is considered the highlight of Liberty’s Visual and Performing Arts program. Last year Liberty High School was the only school in Contra Costa County to win both the California Gold Ribbon School...
Contra Costa County

Meadow Homes Elementary School Turnaround Arts Program

Turnaround Arts, a signature program of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, works with local program partners to provide intensive arts education resources to struggling schools across the country, leading to increases in attendance, academic achievement and student engagement. The initiative focuses on strategic approaches to school improvement by building whole school vision and consensus, leveraging community resources for maximum impact, and utilizing arts resources to target priority areas aligned with school improvement plans. Each Turnaround Arts school receives professional development from experts in the field and a range of resources provided by national partners to bolster student learning and build school community.

There are 49 Turnaround Arts partner schools in the nation, and ten are located in California. As part of the initiative, each school is adopted by a well-known artist, who serves as a role model and inspires students to set high goals and work hard to achieve them. Carla Dirlikov, an acclaimed opera singer praised by Opera Magazine for possessing a voice that, “grabs the heartstrings,” is the Turnaround Artist paired with Meadow Homes Elementary School. Dirlikov, who met with students at the school in 2014 and again in Fall 2015, has been conferred the title of Cultural Envoy by the U.S. State Department, the duties of which include promoting American culture overseas, giving master classes and teaching music to orphans and poverty-stricken youth.

Regional Occupational Program

CCCOE’s Regional Occupational Program continues to provide state of the art educational programs in 30 high schools in Contra Costa County and 4 high schools in Alameda County. The majority of the courses meet the University of California’s “a-g” requirements including a number of arts courses: Art and Animation, Computer Graphic Arts, Creative Writing, Digital Arts/Web Design, Journalism, Multimedia, Video Broadcasting and Photography.
Exposure to visual and performing arts in the educational setting is essential for our students – this opportunity opens their imaginations and provides a venue for creativity. Arts education in all forms helps inspire our students, while motivating them to be engaged in their learning. We have accomplished so much yet we have a very long way to go... We must demand for all kids what we want for our own children and grandchildren!

– Ms. Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools

The Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) is proud of the arts education that is provided to its students across the county. Through high-quality arts instruction, students are motivated to become creative and collaborative critical thinkers. Whether it is partnering with local agencies, such as Youth in Arts, or supporting SchoolsRule Marin, a countywide fundraising effort to engage local school foundations and businesses in support of the arts and technology in schools -- MCOE works hard to create artistic opportunities from which all students will benefit.

**Programs and Partnerships**

Throughout the county there are various arts initiatives taking place that provide impactful programs to students countywide.

This year, the Marin Music Educators Association held a dynamic Professional Development Day for elementary and secondary private and public school music educators. The day included rich discussions about vertical program alignment, as well as developing standards of excellence and methodology across the county.

In addition, there were choral and instrumental workshops led by the Marin Symphony. This first-time collaboration between organizations demonstrated winning learning experiences and an amazing partnership among the many talented music professionals of Marin.
Another special offering this year includes, the Integrated Learning Specialist Program (ILSP) which prepares K-12 teachers, teaching artists, and administrators to effectively plan and deliver meaningful student learning across all subject areas through arts integration, performance-based assessments and collaborative curriculum design. With support from Alameda COE’s model and the Sausalito Art Festival Foundation, Marin has created their ILSP to address local needs.

“People who create in our companies—whether they be scientists, marketing experts, or business strategists—benefit from exposure to the arts. People cannot create when they work and live in a culturally sterile environment.”

– John D. Ong, Chairman Emeritus, the BF Goodrich Company
At the heart of most successful programs, collaboration is the key. This is especially true with respect to the arts, which are the first areas to be cut in times of recession and last to be put back when times get better. The arts succeed when parents, businesses, and non-profits collaborate with schools to keep the arts alive. We are grateful to the many parents who make fundraising practically a full-time occupation and even become part of the performance when needed, and to Festival Napa Valley, which delivers a fabulous week of shows and performances in Napa County, provides free admission to students at many events, and then donates a huge share of the profits to arts teachers to support and expand their school programs and produce the next generation of artists.

– Dr. Barbara Nemko, Napa County Superintendent of Schools

Working with local school districts to ensure arts education is thriving in Napa County has long been a priority for the Napa County Office of Education. County Superintendent Dr. Barbara Nemko and other County Office staff have spoken out in support of the arts in schools, participated in local and regional efforts to enhance arts education and been a key partner in local efforts, such as the Arts Council Napa Valley Education Alliance (ACNVEA), to connect Napa Valley’s vibrant arts community with schools.

Significant progress was made in 2015. The Napa Valley Unified School District’s arts programs received an infusion of support when Festival Napa Valley awarded them $120,000 to fulfill the “wish lists” of visual and performing arts teachers, as well as a $50,000 grant to create a master plan for arts education.

Many of the districts’ arts programs currently rely on parent and teacher fundraising to pay for costs beyond the classroom and the teacher salary. Having a master plan creates a roadmap for a comprehensive, sequential curriculum for arts education, K-12th grade. As a result of the community financial support for this plan, the Napa Valley Unified School District will fund a district level coordinator to oversee implementation of the plan.

“Heartstrings” for All Students

Napa Valley Language Academy (NVLA), a public charter school in Napa, offers a two-way Spanish-English Bilingual Immersion program from Kindergarten through 6th grade. All students participate in the school’s Heartstrings Program, which provides weekly group violin lessons using the Suzuki Violin program. In the upper grades, students may choose to continue with violin, or switch to cello or a band instrument.
The Heartstrings Program was begun because school administration believed that every student, despite their socioeconomic background, should have the opportunity to play an instrument and enrich their lives through music. The school's parent group was already funding after school violin lessons. The principal shifted that funding to the school day, and augmented with short term arts funding from the California Department of Education and a few small private grants. Today, the program instructors are funded through the school’s budget, and the parent group continues to fundraise. Families can purchase instruments at a deep discount through a partnership with a local music supply store, or rent from the school at the cost of $50 per year.

There is no “opt out” for playing an instrument at NVLA. Instrumental classes are built into the school day, by offering students one 30-40 minute lesson per week. The program is taught by several Music Maestros who are part of a local “Artists in Residence” program. NVLA also offers after school instrument classes.

Through the Heartstrings Program the school has seen increasing numbers of students become interested in other instruments in addition to the violin. Many of the students continue to play their instruments in the Napa Valley Youth Symphony and middle and high school music programs.

**Pep Band Brings Community Together**

St. Helena High School (SHHS) is the only public high school in the small rural community of St. Helena, CA. With an enrollment of about 500 students, it can be difficult to field a full marching band. The solution? Invite musicians from around the community to join together to form a noisy and joyful pep band for football games.

The St. Helena High Saints Pep Band includes students from SHHS concert band class. The pep band is augmented with SHHS jazz band members, students from the local Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School, Saints alumni, members of the St. Helena Community Band, and any interested community members. The Band is directed by the high school’s music director Alba Gonzalez Arredondo and teacher Evan Blasingame. The Pep Band blends classic tunes such as “Wipe Out” and Quincy Jones’ “Soul Bossa Nova” with contemporary hits such as “Happy” by Pharrell Williams and Taylor Swift’s “Shake it Off.”

The band usually has about 35 members, with about 80 percent of the members being student musicians. The musicians gather on Friday afternoons before games to rehearse. The SHHS Pep Band has brought the community together, young and old, to play music to support their local football team. Anyone is welcome to join the band, and there is even a six year old on the cowbell. Community members and alumni are getting their musical “chops” back into shape, while current students learn the traditions of SHHS Pep Band straight from the source. Best of all, the crowd and the team love their community band.
The arts are core. We all want our students to read and write, and the arts give them something meaningful to read and write about. As a former music teacher I carry a deep understanding of the power of the arts to engage and empower young people to challenge themselves, take creative risks, work together, and reach new levels of excellence.

— Mr. Richard Carranza, San Francisco County Superintendent of Schools

The SFUSD Visual and Performing Arts Department is embarking on several new projects to provide additional arts instruction, especially in the area of the performing arts culminating in community events celebrating student achievement in the arts.

Collaboration in San Francisco County

Young Voices in Song is a choral collaboration project now in its third year featuring elementary classes from across San Francisco coming together in February to sing in the majestic auditorium of Mission High School under the direction of over a dozen choral teachers. During the fall semester music teachers taught the carefully curated musical presentations as part of their curriculum, with the goal of bringing together a diverse community of students, parents, artists and community members to share this unique evening of song.

Another unique SFUSD collaborative effort that involves multiple schools, teachers, artists-in-residence and invited guests takes place in March with a Mariachi Concert. This is the culminating event for SFUSD’s Mariachi programs in elementary, middle and high schools. This year’s concert takes place during the CABE conference hosted by San Francisco and features SFUSD’s own Superintendent Richard Carranza amongst the many talented student and professional musicians and dancers.

The SFUSD Arts Festival brings over 80 performing groups in bands, orchestras, choirs, drama and dance ensembles to celebrate their achievements at the Asian Art Museum April 28-May 6, 2016 along with media and literary arts events and a student exhibition. The annual festival has served over 300,000 students over 30 years and allows students to experience the excitement of performing live before an audience and showing their artwork to their peers. All performances are by students, for students with the adults facilitating.
Innovative Arts Programs for Middle School Students

In addition to a greater variety and number of performance opportunities that are in essence the district’s visual and performing arts portfolio, SFUSD has launched two innovative new programs, the SFUSD Saturday Arts Lab and the SFUSD Summer Arts Program. Both programs aim to serve middle school students and offer more support to students interested in studying the arts. The Saturday Arts Lab was launched this January and meets three Saturdays a month for three hours, offering Instrumental Music, Dance, Drama, Visual Art (Drawing and Sculpture). Both programs aim to support a more in-depth study of the arts in a laboratory environment and are accessible to both students who have access to quality arts programs, as well as those who are not able to participate in district offerings due to mandatory requirements or scheduling constraints. The only requirement is students’ interest in exploring the arts. Attention is individualized and students are encouraged to deepen skills and self-confidence. Support is provided in the development of portfolios along with application information to the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts, should they wish to pursue the arts more deeply at the high school level.

The SFUSD Summer Arts Program presents yet another opportunity for providing support to students who wish to explore the arts. Students meet every day for four hours for five weeks in the summer, selecting an area of focus and an elective. The project was launched last summer and culminated with a performance day and art show. By providing this opportunity to SFUSD students, a pathway to explore and excel in the arts has been created. The program is accessible to all middle school students and compliments arts offerings provided during the school year at larger middle school campuses, while supporting students who attend smaller K-8 schools which may lack the scheduling flexibility to offer all the arts disciplines. This program provides yet another pathway for students to develop portfolios and receive application information to the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts if they wish to apply and audition for the school.

The deeply held promise of access, equity and excellence in arts education, in combination with the many world class arts resources available in San Francisco, allow for the San Francisco campus to be the thread that binds these programs and arts learning opportunities together; serving students, parents, teachers, artists and our larger community.

A personal favorite quote that summarizes San Francisco County’s view on the importance of the arts comes from Edward Albee, “The health of a nation, a society, can be determined by the art it demands.”
When I think about how important art education is, I’m reminded of a statement by Edgar Degas, ‘Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.’ Art has the power to be transformative and to open doors of wonderful possibility for our students. Throughout San Mateo County, the Visual and Performing Arts give our students and teachers exciting possibilities to explore the realms of creativity, knowledge, and imagination.

– Ms. Anne E. Campbell, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools

The San Mateo County Office of Education is celebrating its 59th year of work supporting districts with Arts Education in San Mateo County. The focus is on interdisciplinary art programs and allows for smooth integration of the California Standards.

“The Visual and Performing Arts are cornerstones of a quality education in the 21st century. A robust body of research suggests that the arts are critical to the very things that we most want for our children — success in academics, social/emotional development, democratic discourse, and equity. San Mateo County is embarking on a bold arts initiative to support schools and districts in reimagining the role that the arts play in a robust instructional program, creating partnerships between local educational agencies and communities, and engaging and inspiring our students. The San Mateo County Office of Education is working with local districts and communities to redesign visual and performing arts support through professional development and technical assistance for teachers and administrators and facilitating conversations and collaboration with the broader arts community.”

- Dr. Gary Waddell, 2016 CCSESA Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Subcommittee Chair
Deputy Superintendent, San Mateo County Office of Education

San Mateo County Office of Education Partners with The California Arts Project
Implementation of the California State Standards presents San Mateo County schools and districts with exciting opportunities to integrate Art into the core curriculum. There is a heightened awareness of the role that the arts play in a robust and rigorous curriculum. In response to
this need, the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) is partnering with The California Arts Project (TCAP) to bring arts education and awareness to educators in San Mateo County. A slate of in-depth, discipline-based professional development experiences are being offered at SMCOE to single subject and multiple subject classroom educators with an emphasis on the role of Visual and Performing Arts.

Art Exhibits Showcase Student Works
The San Mateo County Office of Education sponsors the High School Hall of Fame. The county office serves as an art gallery filled with over 175 works of art focused on California landscape and created by our high school students.

Art Takes a Bus Ride
The “Art Takes a Bus Ride” Art Competition is celebrating its 12th year. This year’s theme is SamTrans: Safe Routes to School. Student in grades 1-6 are asked to draw their interpretation of how a SamTrans bus provides students in San Mateo County a safe route to school. Two winners will be selected from each grade division (a total of six winners). The winning entries will be displayed by SamTrans on the sides of their buses for all to see. In 2016, The Peninsula Museum of Art will host the ceremony to recognize the winners, unveil the winning art displayed on a SamTrans bus, and display all art submissions, totaling over 450 pieces of original work.

PBS (Public Broadcast Service) Learning Partnership
SMCOE and PBS Learning have partnered to create and deliver a professional development series. Participants are given hands-on opportunities to learn how to engage students in arts, media, and technology with effective use of PBS Learning resources, such as free media content and social media tools.

Mini Art Grants
The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, through the San Mateo County Art Commission, supports K-12 teachers in Title I schools each year with a $100 Art Material Lesson Grant to further stimulate the students creative potential. Last year, 60 teachers received these grants.
As educators we have the responsibility of ensuring that the facilitation of learning maximizes student potential, which includes having meaningful and equitable access to arts education.

– Mr. Jay Speck, Solano County Superintendent of Schools

The County Approach
The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) believes that arts education should be accessible for all students. Documented research reveals the richness that the arts contribute to the cognitive development of the brain, thus supporting academic achievement. Our effort is grounded in providing the best professional development opportunities and tangible resources for Solano County educators, and building networking opportunities locally, regionally and statewide. Instrumental in this effort is the SCOE VAPA Council, which is a platform for arts educators and community advocates to network and share best practices for the implementation of arts education across all K-12 disciplines.

Support Systems and Partnerships
SCOE continues to build upon the strengths of local partnerships in support of arts education including local community groups like the Benicia Arts and Culture Commission, local businesses such as Paint Is Thicker Than Water, institutes of higher education including Brandman University, and statewide coalitions dedicated to arts advocacy such as Create California. In addition, SCOE has received ongoing support from groups such as the California Alliance for Arts Education,
the California Department of Education, and CCSESA’s Region 4 VAPA collaborative. With the partnership and support of The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, SCOE has also been able to provide specialized arts education professional development in the Integrated Learning Specialist Program which is a methodology that focuses on making learning visible through the arts.

Community Arts Collaboration

SCOE, along with Solano County’s Youth Services Department, facilitates and hosts the annual Solano County K-12 Student Art Faire. Schools submit work for this week-long Faire, culminating with an Artists Reception held at Solano County Office of Education. Student artwork is displayed throughout the SCOE as well as throughout the Solano County Superior Court Hall of Justice. This is another avenue to celebrate students all year. The Art Faire Contest provides all schools within the county the opportunity to submit original pieces of art, and to receive recognition for their work. This is the 27th year of the SCOE Countywide Art Faire.

Solano County schools continue to showcase talented students in many forms. Throughout the county, all six districts have thriving Performing Theatre Arts programs, and award winning bands.

The Solano County Office of Education will continue providing a community platform for arts education by working with the various educators, students, and community members. We appreciate having the opportunity to share highlights as well as learn about the existing opportunities in arts education happening in other counties.
...the new mission of schools is to prepare students to work at jobs that do not yet exist, creating ideas and solutions for products and problems that have not yet been identified, using technologies that have not been invented.

– Linda Darling-Hammond, Professor, Stanford Graduate School of Education
REGION 5 • SOUTH BAY

REGION 5 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
Dr. Nancy Kotowski, Monterey County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Krystal Lomanto, San Benito County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Jon Gundry, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Watkins, Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools

REGION 5 ARTS LEAD
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The Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE), in partnership with the community, provides the leadership, support and service excellence needed to prepare all of Monterey County’s diverse students for success in each step of their educational journey today and in the future.

**The Media Center for Arts, Education and Technology**

The newly renovated Monterey County Office of Education television studios, partially funded through a California Technical Education Department grant, re-opened its doors as the Media Center for Arts, Education and Technology (MCAET) to Monterey County teachers and students in August 2013 in conjunction with the grand opening of the Millennium Charter High School.

Five years in the making, this state-of-the-art facility is capable of training students in visual and performing arts and career technical education pathways. The facility features: three 24/7 television stations, a soon-to-debut over-the-air radio station, editing for video film and television, high definition and 3D video cameras, a black box theater seating 100, a sound and recording room for underscoring and animation, a “game design” room, and digital connection network of blended communication towers transmitting student produced media arts countywide. MCAET also now serves over 250 students from the regional occupation program, Alternative Education program and the Federal Workforce Program. The MCAET Black Box Theater recently staged a collaborative production of Astophanic’s *The Birds*, featuring dual immersion High School and Junior College students performing live for a studio audience and a County Television audience as well. From Arts and Culture to Sports, MCAET/MCOE leads the way.

MCAET is a leader in the newly created 5th art form – the media arts. Learn more at [www.mcaet.org](http://www.mcaet.org).
Millennium Charter High School

In August 2013, MCOE became home to a new 21st century Millennium Charter High School. Located on the main campus of MCOE in Salinas, California, the new visual and performing arts and career tech facility features state-of-the-art equipment and a highly trained professional staff that work side by side with teachers and students.

Recently, Millennium students working side by side with MCAET professionals have produced several award winning documentaries featuring local transportation and water issues.

As the first charter high school in Monterey County, this demonstration site offers a full-day (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) innovative curriculum that emphasizes project-based digital media technology and the arts, with strong emphases on 21st century skills, college and vocational preparation.

"Millennium Charter High School is a demonstration school where students can’t wait to arrive and don’t want to leave," said Monterey County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Kotowski.

TechMobile

In the fall of 2012, the Monterey County Office of Education, through a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant, unveiled a cutting-edge mobile computer classroom retrofitted to deliver free computer literacy and digital training to Monterey County residents on the road. Monterey County was among 26 computer access projects funded in the nation to bring modern technology to those who may not have access to get on board with the modern world.

Accommodating up to 19 students, the TechMobile is a converted semi-trailer equipped with high-speed Internet workstations, printers, seven large viewing screens, portable audio recording booth, mini green screens, a student common area and an awning-covered outdoor meeting space. Highly qualified instructors from the Media Center for Arts, Education and Technology provide training on a wide variety of topics to students of all ages in Monterey County’s rural and underserved populations.

Classes are free of charge and offered in English, Spanish and some indigenous languages. Curriculum includes, but is not limited to basic computer and Internet skills, video production, animation, audio recording, and basic Web design. TechMobile is also Wi-Fi satellite connected for Internet usage at remote sites and offers the latest animation producing software from Toon Boom, International. Moreover, the mobile unit will offer Common Core State Standards professional development to teachers and administrators. Instruction in all integration and Common Core will be offered. The TechMobile spent last summer at CSUMB helping area migrant students work on their literacy and academic skills.

For more information, including class schedules, visit connectionmonterey.org or call (831) 755-0389.
It is our County vision that we provide our students with an abundance of opportunities to explore and engage in Arts Education. To do so we must demonstrate ways to integrate the curriculum, K-12, with these experiences. It is exciting to announce that our three year plan was established in congruence with the Integrating Arts Learning with the Common Core State Standards publication, produced by CCSESA. This body of work combined with the best proven practices in classroom instruction has set a new course for our County support. In our geographic area, with often limited resources, this approach to classroom integration offers our students more ability to access various forms of art that would not be possible any other way. We are thrilled to bring Arts Education to an all new level, one which it deserves, over the next few years.

– Ms. Krystal Lomanto, San Benito County Superintendent of Schools

This year the San Benito County Office of Education developed and launched the most comprehensive professional develop survey ever completed in the area, not bound by only the “traditional” subject areas, but inclusive and specific to assessing the needs of the county in the area of arts education as well. The survey covered both the familiarity and the priority levels that arts instructors had with a variety of content and strategies that are in alignment with the Common Core State Standards. This feedback has assisted us in creating a county plan which will provide quality professional development support and arts exhibition opportunities to the teachers and youth in the community.
San Benito County

Collaboration

As we have studied, analyzed, planned, and begun to execute our vision it has enhanced our relationship with our collaborative partners. The San Benito County Arts Council will once again provide professional development workshops to the county’s districts. What makes this year’s training better? The professional development series will embed many of the content and strategies prioritized by our County-Wide Survey.

A few of these areas include:

- Incorporating the study of the social, political, cultural and economic contexts of works of art while maintaining an in depth focus on each work;

- Incorporating ALL 4 C’s: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking in the Arts classroom;

- Studying the arts associated careers, including the choices artists make as they design solutions and how aesthetics influence choices consumers make; and

- Technology integration in the arts classroom.

To assist districts further, the County Office of Education has also committed all financial resources necessary to fund the well-known artists presenting these detailed Core aligned workshops.

This spring we will host a chance for all of our districts throughout the county to exhibit their student art pieces by entering a newly established county art contest. The project will include preschool-12th graders’ works of art and encompass a variety of medium types: painting, drawing, textiles, mixed media, sculpture, and just about anything else these young artist can dream up to display their skills and talents. This year’s theme, “Getting In Touch With Your Instinct” will culminate in a community evening with the work of all our artists on display and judging of categories by grade span.
The Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to developing students who possess a wide range of competencies, think critically about complex issues and communicate effectively across lines of difference. Artspiration and our comprehensive STEAM initiative are empowering teachers across the county to infuse rigorous Common Core academics with the artistic and expressive opportunities that are crucial to high quality educational experience. The students impacted by Artspiration today will grow up to be the leading story tellers and problem solvers of the 21st century.

– Mr. Jon Gundry, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools

The award-winning county arts initiative Artspiration at the Santa Clara County Office of Education had a great year expanding on programs that were established last year, as well as building new partnerships this year. Some of the milestones included arts integration practices that were featured within the county’s STEAM initiative, helping districts to bridge their professional development in supporting student learning and continuing to showcase student learning in the community.

Artspiration’s key groups provide action and advocacy to all stakeholders, including educators, arts organizations, parents and community members, interested and passionate in promoting opportunities for students. Recognizing that the role of the Steering Committee has evolved, advocacy and bridging arts within the community is highlighted with the new Art Champions for Education (ACE) committee. Other keys groups that continue to network include the Elementary and Secondary Art Teachers Networks and the County Arts Network.

The Young Artists Showcase arts contest is a county-wide annual spring tradition that adds student artwork to the county office’s permanent collection, the largest adjudicated collection in California. The high school division of the contest partnered with the New Museums of Los Gatos to deepen the learning experience to follow a professional artist’s pathway in submitting work in a gallery. Over 800 students’ submissions for the high school contest resulted in a beautiful show for the winners at the museum’s galleries and college scholarship funds to continue their arts education.

Christopher High School, Gilroy Unified School District

The California Department of Education named Christopher High School as a Gold Ribbon School in 2015, and presented their Fine Arts program with California’s Exemplary Program Award. With arts at its core, the school opened in 2009 to...
ease the overflow from Gilroy High School and was built with a generous donation from the Christopher Ranch family. Students have the opportunity to take many arts classes at this state-of-the-art high school which also emphasizes active arts integration and collaboration into their subject area courses. With its vast array of co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities, students can participate in many arts groups including fine arts, music, theatre and dance.

**Union Elementary School District**

The Union School District is one of the oldest school districts in San Jose but it is moving forward with envisioning “A Future of Achievement, Innovation, and Inspiration.” With their hard work and “can do” attitude, teachers and administrators in this strong community embraced STEAM education. Many innovative practices and initiatives are active amongst its nine school sites. Union’s teacher leaders participated in the STEAM Digital Storytelling cohort this past year and enthusiastically shared the learning with their students and colleagues. A recent program shared to their Board of Trustees had 1st and 2nd graders demonstrating their technology learning live to the audience members. It is a wonderful example of how technology continues to enhance instruction while inspiring student creativity and problem solving success.

**STEAM Digital Storytelling and the Project-Based Learning Practicum**

This was the first year of the Digital Storytelling cohort and its partnership-based blended learning professional development model program was very successful. 32 teachers participated in the year-long program which featured industry leaders to anchor each module in: graphic novels, animation, photojournalism and documentary. Partners included Slave Labor Graphics, the Walt Disney Family Museum, San Jose State University, San Jose Mercury News, and KQED. The program was created in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution. Teachers created units of study based on these modules and will share out their lessons in an online format in the near future. This certificate will be available as an in-person option at the SCCOE and planned for the future as an online course of learning.

The Project-Based Learning Practicum was created with the nationally-recognized SCCOE charter Bullis Charter School, as demand for professional development in project-based learning and systems investigation merged into the development of this year-long Practicum. Comprised of two strands to assist administrators and teachers, cohort members learned side-by-side with the Bullis faculty to investigate the best practices to establish project-based learning and STEAM lessons at their own school site. Administrators gathered opportunities in learning how to build systems at their school to support successful implementation of practices for STEAM.
Through arts in education, students develop the creative thinking and problem-solving skills that are crucial to successful life and work in the 21st century.

– Mr. Michael Watkins, Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools

Music Spreads through Partnerships with the Local Community

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education has been a long time partner with the Santa Cruz Symphony, supporting three educational programs: Classical Music in the Classroom, Youth and Family Concerts, and Musicians in the Classroom.

This year, the Santa Cruz Symphony is exploring the implementation of the Carnegie Link Up Program to further expand student engagement throughout the county.

Santa Cruz COE partners with world renowned musicians to celebrate International Jazz Week, sponsored by UNESCO, to provide the opportunity for local high schools to host Jazz workshops.

Mexican baile folklorico comes alive through the nonprofit organization Senderos. With support from the Santa Cruz COE, Senderos believes that arts education for children and youth is important for fostering creative thinking, confidence, problem-solving, accountability, relationship building, communication, adaptability and dreaming big.

Arts integration includes infusing technology into instruction. Santa Cruz COE’s Young Writers Program promotes the creative process by bringing student voice to the community. Through the voices of avatars, students from Juvenile Hall participate in a community poetry reading.

CONTACT: Mary Anne James, majames@santacruzcoe.org
Summer Arts Institute

The core of our K-8 professional development program is the Summer Arts Institute where generalists experience what it is like to be an artist, by receiving hands-on instruction in two arts disciplines. The VAPA content standards are woven through these arts experiences. The Institute includes daily sessions in reflection and classroom application. The focus in 2015 was on Common Core and how ‘artist mind’ opens the door to the foundational concepts underpinning the Common Core approach and integrated arts. Everyone’s awareness and perception of arts education was expanded by the rich blend of artists and educators.

“\nThe quality of civilization can be measured through its music, dance, drama, architecture, visual art, and literature. We must give our children knowledge and understanding of civilization’s most profound works.”

– Dr. Ernest L. Boyer, Former President, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
I believe arts education in music, theater, dance and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. They (children) have an enthusiasm for life, a spark of creativity and vivid imaginations that need training – training that prepares them to become confident young men and women.

– Richard W. Riley, Former U.S. Secretary of Education
REGION 6 - DELTA SIERRA

REGION 6 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
Mr. Richard Glock, Amador County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kathy Northington, Calaveras County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. James A. Mousalimas, San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tom Changnon, Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Marguerite Bulkin, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools

REGION 6 ARTS LEAD
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We are fortunate in San Joaquin County that our local districts and schools support the arts and the extraordinary value they provide our students. We know that music and the arts have a profound effect on students' achievement in mathematics, science, language arts and beyond. In fact, studies continue to show that students who participate in music and art programs outperform their peers in academic achievement and assessments. Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, said, 'I have seen the critical role that the arts play in stimulating creativity and in developing vital communities; the arts have a crucial impact on our economy and are an important catalyst for learning, discovery, and achievement in our country.' Thank you to our students, teachers, administrators, parents and families for their continued support of music and the arts.

– Mr. James A. Mousalimas, San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools

For over 60 years the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) has sponsored student musical events in our county. Our annual Honors Concerts provide the opportunity for gifted high school and middle school musicians and vocalists to participate in an accelerated music program, culminating with our Honors Concert. Each concert provides the public the opportunity to experience a live performance. This year nearly 600 students representing 57 schools participated in these prestigious events showcasing band, choir and orchestra students.
Artists-in-Schools Program

In addition, SJCOE provides an Artists-in-Schools residency program wherein professional artists teach standards-based lesson plans in their individual area of expertise. This visual and performing arts program provides a means of creativity and self-expression for students, something often lacking in California schools.

Within the county, 382 classrooms from 26 different school sites took advantage of this program. In 2015-16, 11,460 students received standards-based art lessons from an Artists-in-Schools professional artist. For many students this may have been their only opportunity to experience the arts. SJCOE continues to reach out to the community by offering professional development opportunities for teachers and community members. For more information on the San Joaquin County Office of Education Visual and Performing Arts programs, visit their website: www.sjcoe.org/VisualPerformingArts/

San Joaquin County Office of Education looks forward to continuing to support arts education and showcasing the arts and their benefits in our community.

“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”

– Albert Einstein, Theoretical Physicist
Arts education benefits students in ways that other curricula cannot. The arts foster creative thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, individual responsibility, and teamwork – skills students need to be prepared for the 21st century.

– Mr. Tom Changnon, Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools

The Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) is committed to ensuring that every child in the county experiences a comprehensive curriculum. A high-quality education in the arts, including the subject areas of dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and digital media is an integral component of a comprehensive approach. The arts teach our children more than just how to dance, sing, act, or paint; they facilitate students’ learning in all subject areas and foster creative thinking, problem solving, decision making, individual responsibility, and teamwork. The arts in education better prepare students for college and career by giving them the necessary skills to be creative, successful, and competitive in today’s global market.

Arts Education is a Collaborative Effort

In 2009-2010, SCOE assembled the Stanislaus County Arts Education Leadership Team, including parents, teachers, site and district administrators, and representatives from arts organizations and a variety of SCOE programs. The team was tasked with creating a comprehensive strategic plan that would chart the course for SCOE to actively support schools and districts in their efforts to provide high-quality arts education for all students. The Stanislaus County Arts Education Master Plan guides the support of arts education in the County. The plan details why and how SCOE supports an education in which students accrue quality knowledge of the arts and have creative experiences from preschool through their senior year of high school, both within and outside the school day. This plan has guided the opportunities provided to students, teachers, and administrators since its inception.
Stanislaus County

As a result of the Stanislaus County Arts Education Master Plan, the work in the Stanislaus County is focused on:

- Organizing resources and advocating for arts education, including organizing events for advocating publicly for whole child education; publicizing events, opportunities, and resources for Arts Education in the county through our Visual and Performing Arts website: www.stancoe.org/scoe/iss/vapa

- Creating alliances and working effectively with community partners to increase the opportunities for students and teachers across the county. These partnerships have resulted in a strengthening arts integration education through Gallo Center for the Arts Pathways to Creativity, Kennedy Partners in Education, and CCSESA State Arts Initiative, as well as the development of the Modesto State Theatre Youth Education Program, among others. These partnerships have increased access for students by recognizing the financial challenges faced by local schools and securing ongoing grant funding to help with transportation, off-set ticket costs, and creating professional development opportunities for teachers.

- Developing leadership and capacity for quality arts education in county schools and districts. Countywide leadership continues to be developed through the regularly convening Arts Education Leadership Team and ongoing advocacy by SCOE for quality arts education to support student learning and engagement. Each year the county hosts the Region 6 Arts Forum, bringing together educators to deliver professional development for teachers that focus on the integration of the arts with other subject areas, as well as explicit arts instruction strategies for arts specialists. This professional development supports teachers as they move to the Common Core State Standards. SCOE also provides arts integration workshops for educators, STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering Arts and Math) workshops with emphasis on Next Generation Science Standards and State Arts Standards, as well as evening workshops through the County Induction Program.

Partnerships
SCOE, Modesto City Schools, and The Gallo Center for the Arts have taken on the important role of joining the Kennedy Center for the arts in their Partners in Education Program. Through this program’s training, we provide several after School, low-cost trainings in true arts integration. These workshops take place at The Gallo Center for the Arts and involve local and national teaching artists.

SCOE also partners with The State Theatre in Modesto to bring a no-cost program that introduces children to the performing and visual arts, develops arts, math, and science literacy, and inspires a lifelong appreciation for learning and the theater-going experience.
Arts have been important and have played a significant role in Tuolumne County and in our schools for many years. Our county has been the recipient of a variety of arts grants that have provided strong professional development in the four arts disciplines. Each school in the county has one or more arts specialists. Our goal in Tuolumne County is to move forward and institutionalize the concept of arts as a core curriculum. To that extent, the County Superintendent of Schools Office has facilitated the development and implementation of comprehensive arts education plans in every elementary district and supported high schools in developing standards-based arts classes. With the seed planted, quality arts education is flourishing in Tuolumne County.

– Ms. Marguerite Bulkin, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools

Tuolumne County school teachers benefit from a historically strong community partnership with the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance to provide arts education for students and professional development for teachers. Dedicated to bringing the arts to all ages ARTS-Reach to Schools (ARTS) is a 27-year partnership with the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance, The Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office and Tuolumne County’s schools. It is an Arts Education program that brings artists in dance, theater, visual art and music into classrooms. All lessons are fully aligned with California’s curriculum for the arts and its core academic subjects. Guest artists, with supplies and instruments, visit classrooms to inspire and share knowledge and love of the arts with many age groups. ARTS-Reach to Schools has been recognized numerous times as an exemplary arts education program.

Artists in Schools (AIS) is a California Arts Council (CAC) matching grant program (the selected schools match the CAC grants), designed to support high-quality artists in residency in schools for use with class-time, or after school programs. For the past five years, the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance has funded and placed a total of six artists and at least ten guest artists in four local schools. These residencies bring the arts to school age children and empower classroom teachers to teach the arts, while they employ local artists. The residencies last at least 12 weeks and many times much longer. The Arts Alliance’s Educational Director serves as the Coordinator of the AIS Grant at the local level.
Annual Art Events throughout the County

In 1990, The Symphony of the Sierras held its first school assembly performance at Curtis Creek Elementary School to the wild enthusiasm of students, teachers and parents. This program continues today with music students, mainly from 4th and 5th grade classes, and music students giving a yearly concert held at Sonora High School. Additionally, the County Schools Office coordinates an annual choir and band concert with area schools.

The Annual Student Art Show features students throughout the county. This is a K-12 grade student art show. Two age groups, K-6 and 7–12 grade students submit art with the help of their teachers. The art of 7-12 grade students is judged and ribbons are awarded. The work awarded the Best in Show is framed and hung in the Supervisors’ Lobby at the County Court House. The show is held at the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance’s George Post Community Gallery on the Historic Dome Campus.

The Summer Arts Camp at Columbia State Park is an exciting, intensive five day camp for children ages 7-12. 90 campers are guided through a variety of visual arts, music, theater, dance and culture, by professional artists of all disciplines. In addition, the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance created KASA (Kids’ Art Studies Academy) KAMPS for children ages 7–12, held during spring and summer breaks.

The Tuolumne County Superintendents of Schools supports professional development for all teachers in providing an “ART MART” for teachers. These after school workshops are designed to provide make-n-take art projects for teachers to implement in their classroom, complimenting state standards.

In partnership with the Tuolumne County Arts Council, our county’s high school students participate in the nationally recognized Poetry Out Loud Contest each year. We are very proud that our local finalist went on to win the State title in 2015. Visit our website for more information at: www.tuolcoe.k12.ca.us
Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence.

– Joseph M. Calahan, Director of Corporate Communications, Xerox Corporation
REGION 7 ■ CENTRAL VALLEY

REGION 7 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
Mr. Jim A. Yovino, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tim Bowers, Kings County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Cecilia A. Massetti, Madera County Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Robin Hopper, Mariposa County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Steven E. Gomes, Merced County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Jim Vidak, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools

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Building a child’s creative capacity with a strong arts education is vital to success – both in and out of the classroom. Through the arts, we are shaping a future of creative thinkers, innovators and problem solvers.

– Mr. Jim Yovino, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

The Fresno County Office of Education believes the Arts are an essential part of every child’s well-rounded education. Our mission is to encourage arts learning for students and educators, to collaborate with school districts and arts organizations on large scale initiatives and to advocate for the arts at the local, state and national level. Working together with our partners, we will work to create equity and access to a high quality arts education for every student, in every school, every day.

Fresno County Superintendent Jim A. Yovino dedicates over $250,000 of general fund support yearly to the arts, including staffing and direct services to schools and students. A team of seven full-time employees roll out this high profile model of arts excellence at the county office. This support has allowed many districts to weather the current financial crisis and still provide services to the arts. Through the new Arts Business Coalition and the Spark! adopt-a-school grant, the Superintendent has strategically placed arts programs in underserved schools and created a robust plan for sustainability after the grant funding ends. Superintendent Yovino has also encouraged the integration of the arts into implementation of new California State Standards in ELA and Math. In fact, FCOE will train nearly 500 teachers in arts integration this year, including integrated curriculum and multimedia resources.
The Fresno County Office of Education is proud to partner with the City of Fresno, Fresno Unified School District and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as the nation’s tenth site for Any Given Child. This program has helped to revolutionize the arts in California’s fourth largest district with a robust strategic plan, a highly effective community arts team and millions of dollars in new funding from a very supportive school board. The FCOE recently received a $1.4 million Federal grant to work at ten Any Given Child pilot sites to develop an innovative arts assessment technology solution that will transform the way arts integration is documented across the district.

The FCOE partners with major arts and culture organizations to create annual student engagement programs such as Art of the Word with the Fresno Art Museum, LinkUp! with the Fresno Philharmonic, Accent on Access with the Youth Orchestras of Fresno and Empty Bowls with the Fresno Community Food Bank. As Region 7 Visual and Performing Arts lead, the Fresno County Office of Education hosts the annual arts and education summit drawing over 250 participants from around the state. The FCOE also hosts the regional TeachArts.org website and a retreat for Region 7 county arts leads.

The Arts Every Day professional development program offers schools and districts an intensive arts integration training experience for K-6 teachers as well as curriculum writing and facilitator training. The SMART Award—Superintendent’s Model Arts Award—recognizes schools and districts that offer high quality arts education programs for their students. The Fresno County Youth Choir is a unique music and mentoring program that creates multicultural harmony through music that fills the heart, lifts the soul, and changes lives for 80 singers drawn from 16 high schools and three local colleges and universities. In partnership with higher education and professional theatre partners, this Stages summer youth theater project engages high school students from throughout the county in creating authentic and relevant theatre that connects with vital issues in their lives and community.
An education without the Arts is incomplete. The Arts feed our minds as well as our souls. Our students deserve the most complete education possible.

– Mr. Tim Bowers, Kings County Superintendent of Schools

Arts and Technology

Kings County Office of Education (KCOE) continues its role in providing arts education through the use of technology. By partnering with instructors from Kings Art Center, students from all over the county are able to participate in arts education from the comfort of their own school sites.

KCOE has been a content provider for Interactive Video Conferencing (IVC) programs for the past six years. Thousands of students have participated in this form of distance learning. Students are able to experience various curriculum-based instruction through virtual fieldtrips, including art instruction.

Every Friday, an instructor from Kings Art Center arrives at the KCOE studio to lead three to five art classes. Each class consists of one to two classrooms at a time and lasts 45 minutes to an hour. This year, 12 different lessons have included studies in landscapes, shapes, pop art, zentangles, geometric art, and a study of Van Gogh. Special holiday lessons are offered for winter and Valentine’s Day. All lessons are carefully designed and aligned with California and VAPA standards in mind. For the 2015-2016 school year, over 40 lessons have been scheduled and/or presented.
**Partners in Education**

For the past 23 years, Kings Art Center and KCOE have partnered together to offer a county-wide Young Masters Art Show. Through their school, students are able to submit art work and receive cash prizes. A reception is offered to the students, their families and the public and includes appetizers, beverages, and desserts.

*“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.”*

— Pablo Picasso, Painter
Dr. Cecilia Massetti, the Madera County Superintendent of Schools, supports all Madera County school districts and charter schools with their fine arts programs. Dr. Massetti believes in the involvement of students in the arts. Arts are associated with gains in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skills. Brain research shows the outcome of arts programs with students produce a variety of benefits, intended and unintended, including academic achievement. Dr. Massetti and her staff work with local foundations and the Madera Arts Council to disseminate information and programs to all school districts. The Madera County Office of Education (MCOE) works collaboratively with Fresno COE and the whole of Region 7 to host the annual arts education summit in Fresno each spring.

Madera County ArtsFest

MCOE partners with the Madera County Schools Foundation to host the annual Madera ArtsFest, a free family-friendly event promoting the arts in Madera County. The event has hands-on art booths, student instrumental and vocal music performances, professional artist demonstrations in a variety of media, face painting, opportunity drawings, and free food. “This is such a fun, family event for our community,” says Dr. Massetti. “It is great to see so many children enjoying the hands-on art activities.”

In 2015, more than 200 students from 22 schools in Madera County participated in an art contest in the spring. Artwork from students in kindergarten through high school were displayed in a student art gallery at ArtsFest. Students compete in separate divisions: K-3rd grade, 4-6th grade, 7-8th grade and 9-12th grade. They are also judged in separate categories: 2-dimensional art, 3-dimensional art and still photography.
“The artistic talents of our students from Madera County are just phenomenal,” says Dr. Massetti. “We are happy to provide this opportunity for the community to attend this event and view the fabulous student artwork.”

**Madera County Independent Academy’s Music Program**

The Madera County Independent Academy (MCIA) is a charter school operated by the Madera County Office of Education. The targeted student population consists of educationally disadvantaged students of grades K-12. Two distinct student populations are served: K-12 home school students and K-12 independent study students. Students who attend MCIA come in search of an alternative educational model that provides opportunities for greater flexibility in terms of time and delivery of instruction.

This is not a typical independent study program, as many creative electives are offered in addition to the core academic subjects. Among the many electives is MCIA’s music program. The music teacher offers classes that include guitar, piano, native flute, and steel drum. These classes introduce students to music theory as well as them how to read and write music. The students are given an instrument to take home, so they can practice what they are being taught in class. Student enrolled in the music classes are required to attend classes one day a week. The students have many opportunities to not only practice their music together in class and at home, but also perform in a variety of community locations in Madera.

**MCOE’s Educational Resources and Services Program**

MCOE’s Educational Resources and Services (ERS) program provides digital media resources to teachers and students to support arts education through CaliforniaStreaming.org, an ongoing project of the California County Educational Technology Consortium - www.ccetc.net. Teachers also borrow a variety of multimedia resources from ERS to support their arts education curriculum, from art prints to DVDs on dance, theatre and music.

**Partnership with Madera County Superior Court**

From 2013 through 2015 the MCOE worked in partnership with the Madera County Superior Court and school districts to create a permanent collection of two-dimensional artwork that is now on permanent display to the public on each of the four floors on the newly built courthouse in Madera. The artwork represents a cross section of significant court cases heard by the Superior Court during the last 100 years in Madera County. 19 students from all of Madera County’s comprehensive high schools and one charter high school created the artwork and were honored at a special artists’ reception in the new courthouse on October 28, 2015.
Mariposa County

We recognize that providing our students with a robust arts education equips them with the necessary skills they will need to enter the rapidly changing global economy. In Mariposa, art has been integrated into classrooms in a way that offers hands-on, inquiry-based instruction and relies heavily on developing tools and strategies to create, communicate, collaborate, and think critically, preparing our students to successfully contribute and thrive in the 21st Century.

– Mrs. Robin Hopper, Mariposa County Superintendent of Schools

Mariposa’s Approach to Arts Education

Mariposa has developed a four-pronged approach to supporting the arts in our schools. First, understanding the ability of the arts to engage multiple literacies and support the transfer of knowledge across subject areas, Mariposa COE encourages the integration of art-infused curriculum in math, science, English, and social science instruction. Second, to support teachers in their efforts to fold the arts into their classrooms in a meaningful way, we provide a variety of opportunities for professional development in the areas of art integration and art instruction. Third, by establishing and strengthening partnerships and collaborations with outside art-focused organizations such as the Mariposa County Arts Council, we are able to bring professional artists into our classrooms, build strong educators with a deep professional development program, expand resources, and advocate in tandem for the expansion of art in our schools. Finally, we are building partnerships between local businesses and our various art programs, demonstrating that embedded in the arts is a variety of vocational, technical, and creative skills necessary to drive our future economy.

Programs and Professional Development

MCOE has a partnership program with the Mariposa County Arts Council which places trained teaching artists into all of Mariposa County’s 5th grade classrooms for eight-week residencies. These artists have worked with the respective classroom teachers to develop arts-infused, CCSS standards-aligned curriculum that teaches art in concert with at least one other academic subject. The residencies provide in-depth, hands-on visual arts and music experiences that
Mariposa County

develop students’ critical thinking and creative problem solving skills, leveraging the arts to support rigorous intellectual inquiry, illuminate scientific and mathematical discoveries and concepts, and promote thoughtful conversations about the human condition.

The program also serves as a professional development opportunity for classroom teachers, by building capacity in teachers to integrate the arts into the existing curriculum through an instructional approach known as graduated release. This method begins with the artist-educators providing 100% of the instruction, and progresses to a co-teaching model with the teacher joining at previously determined points in the lesson. The process culminates in the classroom teacher leading instruction while the artist-educator moves into a coaching role.

The performing arts also continue to be a focus in Mariposa schools and are well supported by the community. Drama, art and multi-media classes are integrating new standards and technology. The Grammy Award winning Mariposa County High School Marching Band performed in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. in May 2015. These talented musicians are now preparing for their trip to Honolulu to perform in the multi-national 75th anniversary commemoration of Pearl Harbor aboard the USS Missouri on December 7, 2016. These experiences ensure that culture, expression and creativity remain tightly interwoven within the curriculum.
I remain committed to providing students in Merced County the opportunities to learn and explore the visual and performing arts. I applaud the school districts in our county that have made the effort to incorporate STEAM into their curriculums. Educators are on the right path by using the arts to teach science, technology, engineering, and math.

– Dr. Steven E. Gomes, Merced County Superintendent of Schools

The Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) works with local school districts and other organizations to host special events for county students, many of which focus on arts education. MCOE sponsors a children’s opera at UC Merced, manages a children’s concert with the Merced Symphony, and the Merced County Education Foundation hosts a visual and performing arts summer camp at local high schools. MCOE also coordinates with the local theatre troupe Playhouse Merced to get performing arts to school districts throughout Merced County.
Merced County

“Creativity takes courage.”
– Henri Matisse, Artist

“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.”
– Henry David Thoreau, Author
The importance of instruction and participation in the fine arts cannot be overstated – for many students these opportunities are the single key to their positive personal development and learning success.

– Mr. Jim Vidak, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools

The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) supports 43 school districts with several annual fine arts events and ongoing services designed to give students the opportunity to both experience and participate in theatre, dance, music, and visual arts.

TCOE Theatre Company

In the performing arts, the renowned TCOE Theatre Company offers a variety of performance and instructional opportunities throughout the year, including workshops in acting, dance, and voice. In 1998, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak oversaw the formation of the Theatre Company, which produces large musical productions and offers a variety of classes to school age youth. Hundreds of students take part each year in classes, recitals and performances which have become events the entire community celebrates and supports. In addition to hosting full-scale musical theatre productions three times each year, the Theatre Company also assists districts with their productions by providing sets, costumes, and technical support.

Annual Arts Events

Another event in the performing arts is Poetry and Prose On Stage. For more than 30 years, elementary and middle school students have honed their recitation skills before an audience and a judge. High school students are able to polish their poetic prowess through the Poetry Out Loud program. Annually, thousands of elementary students also attend special educational performances by the Tulare County Symphony. In the visual arts, all Tulare County schools are invited to submit two- and three-dimensional artwork to the annual Student Art Exhibition. A culminating event, called Best of Show, caps off the series of three exhibitions with a month-long show in March. Students also have the opportunity to show off their illustration and writing skills at the annual Young Authors’ Fair, which highlights self-published books reviewed by the public.
Community Partnerships and Programs

TCOE partners with the Arts Consortium of Tulare County in an Artist in Education program which brings local artists to school sites for assemblies and artist-in-residence programs. The funding provided by TCOE allows many schools to take part in this rewarding program which connects students to a variety of artists and art forms. The two agencies also collaborate with the California Arts Council to promote and fund the annual Poetry Out Loud competition.

TCOE also partners with local arts organization The Enchanted Playhouse by providing funding to offset ticket costs for schools to attend performances. These productions are specifically directed at school-aged children and offer a unique opportunity for them to experience live theatrical entertainment.

The TCOE also supports the development of murals on school campuses and on public buildings throughout the county. One of the most recent murals was designed by students at a community school and supervised by a professional artist. The mural incorporates portraits of admired leaders and the pillars of the CHARACTER COUNTS! program.

The TCOE also supports local teacher/musicians, provides funding for district substitutes to release teachers who play in the Tulare County Symphony youth concerts, and also supports the Tulare Kings Counties Music Educators Association (TKMEA) and their Honor Group Conductors.

Since 1955, the TCOE and the Tulare County Symphony have partnered to present the annual Young People’s Concerts. Over 9,000 students are transported to three different communities over three days to hear a symphony program designed to delight young audiences. In recent years, the local community college has also provided dancers who help portray the story of a particular piece of music.

TCOE sponsors the On Stage program for Tulare County schools. This traveling children’s theatre program provides the props, costumes, sets, musical materials and talented directors so that any elementary school can enjoy a theatrical production on their own school site in only two weeks.

In 2015, the Tulare County Arts Network (TuCAN) was formed. This professional learning community was created to promote the arts and arts education throughout Tulare County. TuCAN provides a monthly forum where local arts educators, artists, advocates, community partners, and other supporters can gather to discuss topics related to the arts.
The arts teach discipline, problem solving, cooperation, concentration – a nearly endless list of educational benefits. Adding an arts program to a school’s curriculum increases student attendance, participation, test scores and graduation rates – all commonly accepted measures of excellence.

– Visual and Performing Arts Framework for California Public Schools
REGION 8 ▪ COSTA DEL SUR

REGION 8 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
Dr. Christine Lizardi Frazier, Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. James J. Brescia, San Luis Obispo County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. William Cirone, Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Stanley C. Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools

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Visual and performing arts are a universal language. No matter what corner of the world someone comes from, their sights and sounds speaks to us all in a common way we can understand. The Kern County Office of Education works in collaboration with numerous community organizations like the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and the Civic Dance Center, as well as Kern’s 47 school districts to ensure young people are given an opportunity of discovery and self-expression.

– Dr. Christine Lizardi Frazier, Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Community Collaborations Key to Arts Education in Kern

It’s something you don’t see every day at an orchestral concert — clowning around that provokes outbursts of laughter from the audience.

But serious gives way to silliness at the Rabobank Theater in Bakersfield on several occasions each school year. Thousands of local elementary students pack the house for an introduction to classical music thanks to a collaborative field trip program organized by the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS).

“The idea is to entertain and educate students at the same time,” said orchestra CEO Bryan Burrow of the ‘Young People’s Concert’ series.

The program is a vital part of the orchestra’s mission to provide music education to local youth and one that KCSOS is happy to help it achieve. With a new music director at the helm — 31-year-old Stilian Kirov — the orchestra has begun a new era and completely re-vamped the field trip program with several unique offerings for 2015/16.

For the first time, nationally known Magic Circle Mime Company was enlisted to help present a young person’s guide to the orchestra and classical music. It was a hit with students as two mimes decked out in red and black attire and white faces taunted Kirov and the orchestra at every turn.
But the programs aren’t all shenanigans. Kirov engages the young audience about the types of music they hear and its purpose. During a separate field trip, the orchestra dedicated a performance to Disney’s popular movie Frozen, allowing students to relate symphonic music to the music they know and love.

“We want to promote the idea that classical music is open to everyone. We want to find music everyone can relate to,” Kirov said.

In addition to the ‘Young People’s Concert’ series, the orchestra also gives away hundreds of tickets to students through its BSO NEXT program so they may attend the normal evening concerts during the fall.

“My students cannot stop talking about the performance and have been proudly showing off their autographed programs,” said Daniel Hernandez, Music Director at Paul L. Cato Middle School.

**Nutcracker Field Trip**

Another community collaboration takes place every December when busloads of school children get a sneak peek at the production of Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker* ballet performed by Civic Dance Center. The four performances over two mornings are a win-win. The field trip allows the dancers — the majority of whom are school-age kids themselves — to fine-tune their moves before the public opening, while giving kids from all across the county access to a holiday favorite that they might not otherwise have the fortune to see.

**Honors Music Concerts**

KCSOS also partners with the Kern County Music Educators Association and local school districts to bring two very special educational concerts to the community — one for junior high musicians and a second for those in high school.

In January, the collaboration brings together 400 of the finest high school musicians and singers for the annual “It’s a Grand Night for Music” — a concert wherein the students have an opportunity to work with guest conductors and directors. Students earn a place in this annual showcase of Kern County’s finest high school musicians and singers through an audition process.

The “Kern County Honors Music Festival” is a similar event that is geared toward junior high and middle school students and takes place every February.
We need to recognize fine arts classes as core aspects of the academic curriculum rather than as merely “add-ons” or “feel-good” electives. Research is clear in indicating that students at all grade levels should be required to study the fine arts. In order to increase student opportunities, we should assure that funding for arts education in our schools is maintained or expanded. Ongoing maintenance of funding is necessary to continue the positive relationships between arts education and student learning as identified in the research literature.

– Dr. James J. Brescia, San Luis Obispo County Superintendent of Schools

The San Luis Obispo County Office of Education acknowledges that 21st century American classrooms are becoming increasingly diverse. As total U.S. enrollment reaches 57 million future members of our democracy, we are committed to preserving and promoting the arts. Nearly one in four American students will experience English as a second language in our ever changing society. We believe that a school system which teaches students to think rigorously and to creatively articulate thoughts promotes our democracy. The San Luis Obispo County Office of Education supports a humanities-based education that equips students for long-term career development in our rapidly changing global economy. Education is one the biggest factors in promoting social mobility and social justice. Arts and humanities-based programs do not assume individuals occupy a fixed place in society. The local economy is more dependent on media, culture and tourism than ever before in history. We acknowledge that these fields are driven by the creativity of the arts and humanities. If we do not support access to the arts and humanities, we risk damaging one of our most valuable natural resources, our human potential.
Promoting the Arts and Humanities

San Luis Obispo County is fortunate to have some newly established and long-time partnerships that promote the arts and humanities. In the northern part of our county, the Paso Robles-based Studios on the Park, a nonprofit art center, skillfully connects the art community and the education establishment. The center includes four art workshops with 12 working artists, six galleries, and high-quality gift shops that feature local artists and students. Art in the center of Paso Robles is a witness to the creative process in action between the community and our schools.

Along our coastal region, the town of Cayucos features a unique steel pan band serving this small K-8 campus. The drums were built entirely by the district’s gifted instructor, John Lee. Support for the arts in Cayucos is provided by local service clubs such as the Lioness Club, Lions Club, Rotary International and the Cayucos Educational Foundation. The San Luis Obispo County Office of Education has been working directly with local service clubs and foundations in the promotion of the arts.

In 1986, The South County Performing Arts Building Foundation was drawn up and began a unique partnership with the Lucia Mar Unified School District to create a joint-use community and school facility on the site of the Arroyo Grande High School Campus. The Foundation agreed to establish an Endowment Fund to help with the maintenance of the facility and to fund capital improvements. In turn, the school district pledged to supervise building efforts and maintain the facility for 99 years. The Clark Center is just one example of the many successful partnerships that strive to keep the arts thriving in San Luis Obispo County.
Arts education provides a form of expression and communication that is essential to the human experience. In addition, the arts provide unique ways to reach students who may not learn as readily through language and mathematics alone.

— Mr. William Cirone, Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools

Children’s Creative Project
The Children’s Creative Project is a unique program that brings together young people and professional artists, enabling children to develop artistic perception, creative expression, and an understanding of artists, the creative process, and historical and cultural arts heritage. Begun in 1974, the project now reaches 50,000 children annually during school hours in roughly 100 schools in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, with visual and performing arts workshops conducted by resident artists, multicultural performances presented by professional touring artists at school sites, and a free annual performance event by a world-renowned artist for 4,000 students at a public theater venue.

The Children’s Creative Project (CCP) supports individual schools and school districts in creating programs that meet their needs and budgets through the program of resident artist workshops. Artists provide sequential, participatory lessons in dance, drama, vocal music, and visual arts, providing opportunities for creative expression, skill development, and joyful discovery. These workshops address the visual and performing arts content standards for California public schools and can integrate the arts with other academic subject areas. A more complete description is available at ccp.sbceo.org

A good example of a district partnership is the Santa Maria Bonita School District, where the district provides essential support for K-6 arts education. The CCP works with the district to design its resident artist program, providing instruction in vocal music, visual arts, dance, and theater. District support provides touring artist performances for each school from the CCP Arts Catalog of 175 multicultural artists.

In 1999, the CCP was among 91 arts education programs in the nation recognized as model programs by former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in a report, “Gaining the Arts Advantage: Lessons from School Districts that Value Arts Education.”
The CCP also received “The Creative Ticket Schools of Excellence” award from the California Alliance for Arts Education, a member of the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education network.

Community Partnerships

The *I Madonnari* Italian Street Painting Festival, the first of its kind in North America, attracts 25,000 visitors annually and has become one of Santa Barbara’s most popular events. Created in 1987 by CCP Executive Director Kathy Koury, the festival is the primary fundraiser for the CCP and its fine-arts programs in county schools. A true celebration of the arts and the creative process, *I Madonnari* features live music and authentic Italian cuisine in addition to the unique street paintings that serve as its inspiration.

Street painting—using dry pastels on pavement—is an Italian tradition dating to the 16th Century. The early Italian street painters—called “Madonnari” because of their practice of reproducing the image of the Madonna—were vagabonds who travelled to religious festivals in small towns and villages to create their ephemeral works of art. With the first rains of the season, their paintings would fade.

In front of the Santa Barbara Mission, a grid is drawn on the pavement to divide the plaza into 150 spaces that range from 4x6 to 12x16 feet. These rectangles bear the name of sponsors, who include both large and small businesses, organizations, and individuals. As the public watches throughout the Memorial Day weekend in May, 300 local artists transform the plaza with elaborate compositions in unexpectedly vibrant colors. In addition, a separate area is designated for 600 young children to create their own street paintings. More information is available at [iMadonnariFestival.com](http://iMadonnariFestival.com).

The festival demonstrates the power of local partnerships as it draws major support from local businesses, service clubs, and individuals. The CCP is also a good example of pooling resources at the county level to benefit local children and school districts directly and to help fill the voids created by budget constraints.

Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools Bill Cirone also uses several of his monthly television shows, *Cirone on Schools*, *Talking with Teachers*, *Schools of Thought*, and *Innovations in Education*, to promote arts education organizations and highlight model school programs that others can replicate.
Ventura County and our County Office of Education have consistently supported arts education, and are fortunate that through partnerships with our local arts associations we provide our students with this critical area of knowledge. It is my belief that any well-rounded instructional program includes rich learning experiences in all aspects of the arts.

– Mr. Stanley C. Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools

The Ventura County Office of Education provides educators with a variety of trainings on art integration into classroom pedagogy and afterschool programs. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) events take place in many local districts and at the local state university. Training and events are designed to engage and excite students about their potential for creative learning and foster 21st century skills.

Ventura County Partnerships
The Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) is committed to quality arts education for all, partnering with local community and educational arts organizations. The Ventura County Arts Council, Museum of Ventura County, Agricultural Museum of Ventura County, and California Lutheran University – Shakespeare Educational Tour are instrumental in providing Ventura County students access to the arts.
Ventura County Arts Network
The Ventura County Arts Network meets triennially and hosts several events throughout the year. The vision and mission are to provide professional learning, disseminate state-level information and resources, and provide a range of learning opportunities in the arts. Participants report on art program models, devise solutions to common barriers, celebrate successes, extend invitations for site demonstration days, art shows, performances, STEAM projects, as well as best practices. For more information, please visit the VCOE Arts Website.

CCSESA Arts Initiative
The visual and performing arts are an integral part of a comprehensive curriculum and are essential for learning in the 21st century. All students from every culture, geographic region and socio-economic level deserve quality arts learning in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts as part of the core curriculum. The Curriculum and Instruction department at VCOE developed Module 8, Artifact Detectives, located on the CCSESA Arts website to help infuse the arts throughout the curriculum.

Ventura County Expanded Learning and After School Programs
Ventura County Office of Education’s Expanded Learning and After School programs provide children with opportunities to develop skills, competency, and efficacy in an environment that values children, learning, and achievement. Professional learning opportunities support capacity-building for art integration and STEAM projects in after school curriculum. The focus is on developing the whole child and providing enriching experiences in the arts. For more information, please visit the VCOE Expanded Learning and After School Programs website at http://www.vcoe.org/Expanded-Learning-Services/Region-8-After-School-Programs.
"...the arts have been an inseparable part of the human journey; indeed we depend on the arts to carry us toward the fullness of our humanity. We value them for themselves and because we do we believe knowing and practicing them is fundamental to the healthy development of our children’s minds and spirits. That is why in any civilization – ours included – the arts are inseparable from the very meaning of the term ‘education.’ We know from long experience that no one can claim to be truly educated who lacks basic knowledge and skills in the arts."

– National Standards for Arts Education
REGION 9 ■ SOUTHERN

REGION 9 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
Dr. Todd Finnell, Imperial County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Al Mijares, Orange County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Randolph E. Ward, San Diego County Superintendent of Schools

REGION 9 ARTS LEAD
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Arts education is very personal to me. It’s what kept me interested in school and has done the same for my own children. We know it positively impacts student learning, but more importantly it enhances the quality of life for our students. The arts, including dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, must be a priority for us as we prepare our students for their life journey.

– Dr. Todd Finnell, Imperial County Superintendent of Schools

Imperial County Office of Education continues to strive to support the visual and performing arts in our schools. This year, we are providing a variety of trainings to assist secondary art teachers as they incorporate 21st Century Skills into arts classrooms. We will also provide classroom teachers with trainings on how to integrate the arts into their subjects. Finally, in partnership with the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, we are conducting a countywide student art contest in which students design a flag for Imperial County. This is an opportunity for students to showcase their artistic talent and be involved in creating a lasting community symbol that captures the history, beauty, and uniqueness of our community.
Imperial County

“I paint self-portraits because I am the person I know best.”

– Frida Kahlo, Painter

“Don’t let the noise of others’ opinions drown out your own inner voice.”

– Steve Jobs, Co-Founder, Apple Inc.
The Orange County Department of Education believes that the arts are integral to a well-rounded education. The proven enduring benefits to students are increased creativity and critical thinking. Our county office’s efforts will continue to support districts’ strategic planning and teachers’ professional development that increases achievement for all students.

– Dr. Al Mijares, Orange County Superintendent of Schools

With over 95% of Orange County school districts developing goals addressing State Priorities by incorporating arts education into their Local Control Accountability Plan, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) has been actively involved with supporting districts with this effort to provide every student with a well-rounded education, which includes the arts. In Orange County, educational leaders understand how the arts help to prepare students to enter the workforce and succeed in the competitive global market. They recognize that students who study the arts learn how to think both critically and creatively, to persevere beyond failed attempts to reach goals, and to work collaboratively with their fellow students. The Orange County Department of Education supports the twenty-eight Orange County school districts with the following services:

**Arts Advantage - OCDE Arts Education Initiative**

Arts Advantage continues to evolve during this time of substantial change in public education by addressing and meeting the needs of Orange County students. Through strong partnerships, Arts Advantage collaboratively sustains the effort with all stakeholders to ensure access to arts education for all Orange County children in order to successfully prepare them for college and a career. With support provided by SouthCap, this goal is addressed by providing professional development to elementary classroom teachers in arts education throughout the school year, and an annual summer institute provides classroom teachers in-depth learning in the arts and supports their development of units of integrated instruction. Arts Advantage facilitates Professional Learning Communities (PLC) with arts-specialist teachers with an emphasis on the National Core Arts Standards.

Arts Advantage supports school districts with the development of their District Strategic Arts Plan, and the plan’s alignment to the district’s Local Control Accountability Plan. Twenty-four of twenty-eight OC school districts are currently implementing an arts plan.

**Orange County Arts Collaborative Grant Program**

Learning in the arts is essential to developing 21st century work skills and creative thinking, and the OC Arts Collaborative Grant Program assists Orange County school districts to achieve this goal by leveraging each district’s effort to implement their District Strategic Arts Plan.
**GRAMMY Foundation Partnership**
Through an established partnership between OCDE and the GRAMMY Foundation, an Orange County school district participates in the GRAMMY Career Day event at LA Live in downtown Los Angeles. This program is designed to provide high school students a deeper understanding of strengthening critical and creative thinking skills through music education as well as insight into music/tech careers through industry professionals.

**Arts + STEM Collaborative**
The Arts + STEM Collaborative (A+SC) consists of school districts, educational institutions, local governments, businesses and nonprofit organizations leaders from Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties. OCDE has taken a leadership role with the Collaborative by heading the *Findings Analysis Project* which includes: 1) gathering effective actions from school observations; 2) analyzing the data by the *Finding Analysis Think Tank*; 3) incorporating findings into a STEAM Implementation Guide for elementary, middle and high schools; 4) and piloting the guide with school leadership teams who are launching STEAM instructional programs.

**Building Bridges – A Visual Arts Student Articulation Pilot**
*Building Bridges* was designed 1) to provide elementary students access to rigorous, standards-based visual arts instruction in order to develop creative and critical thinking skills; 2) to build student articulation patterns between an elementary school and its feeder middle school, strengthening the middle school’s visual arts programs; 3) to increase understanding and value of visual arts education among all stakeholders at the elementary school.

**Imagination Celebration 2016**
*Imagination Celebration* presented by Arts Orange County and OCDE is an annual countywide arts festival that celebrates children’s creativity through visual arts exhibits and family-friendly events. Selected artworks from the *Imagination Celebration* exhibitions will be featured during the *Festival of Arts in Laguna Beach*.

**7th Annual Creative Edge Lecture**
The *7th Annual Creative Edge Lecture*, featuring Dr. Charles Limb and The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance Ensemble at the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall on March 14, 2016, will provide arts and business leaders throughout Southern California a new understanding of what sparks creative endeavors by illuminating how the brain generates new ideas.

**OCMAA – District Leadership Development in Arts Education**
Facilitated by OCDE, Orange County Music and Arts Administrators (OCMAA) is a monthly assembly of school and district administrators as well as arts administrators from the county’s leading arts organizations who gather to learn effective practices supported by the latest research in education.

**Annual OCMAA Awards Ceremony**
The *Orange County Music and Arts Administrators Awards Ceremony* annually celebrates the accomplishments of outstanding visual arts, theatre, dance and music teachers as well as classroom teachers and administrators who provide and support arts instruction throughout Orange County. These esteemed awards recognize the accomplishments of educators who make a difference in the lives of students through arts education.

**Poetry Out Loud**
OCDE hosts this annual county competition for those high school students who are the winners of their district’s *Poetry Out Loud* competition.
All San Diego County children deserve access to high-quality visual and performing arts education, regardless of where they live or how much money their parents make. The arts provide a crucial link to engaging students in other academic fields and help students develop the critical and creative thinking skills that are necessary for success in college, career, and beyond.

– Dr. Randolph E. Ward, San Diego County Superintendent of Schools

County Support Systems
Arts Empower San Diego is collaboration between the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) and the arts education community with the purpose of ensuring that every child in San Diego County receives a quality arts education. The goals of the initiative are to support school districts in:

- Building leadership around arts education
- Providing professional development for administrators
- Establishing a system of assessment and evaluation for arts programs
- Building meaningful partnerships between districts and community art stakeholders
- Promoting advocacy to strengthen arts education and community
- Writing and implementing strategic arts plans

SDCOE and Arts Empower continue to collaborate on presenting the Mega Arts Conference. This event is an opportunity for arts specialists, arts teachers, classroom teachers, school administrators, teaching artists and arts partners to participate in professional development workshops, networking, and a celebration of arts in our schools.

San Diego Arts Network (SDAN)
SDCOE coordinates a network of superintendents, assistant superintendents, curriculum directors, site leadership and teacher leaders called the SDAD which provides powerful networking opportunities and professional development in the visual and performing arts.

Arts Education Resource Organization (AERO)
SDCOE brings together over 80 arts partner organizations for networking, professional development on standards based arts instruction and ARTSpack, the annual distribution of partner materials to every school in the county.
Best Practices
San Diego County continues to be a leader in developing new models in the delivery and assessment of arts instruction.

Developing Reading Education with Arts Methods (DREAM)
This 4-year United States Department of Education Arts Integration Grant was awarded with the purpose of training 3rd and 4th grade teachers to use visual arts and theater activities to improve students’ reading and language arts skills. Center ARTES at California State University San Marcos, in collaboration with the North County Professional Development Federation, the San Diego County Office of Education and 10 North San Diego County school districts implemented this program which resulted in an astonishing 87-point increase in elementary student test scores in reading. Though the research grant for DREAM is complete the work continues throughout the county of San Diego, most notably in Title I schools, and throughout K-12 settings. More than 2,500 students are impacted by these efforts each year.

Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD)
The Chula Vista Elementary School District has committed district-wide support and resources to realize the vision of providing visual and performing arts instruction to all students across the district. Their work grew from collaborations and initiatives including:

- The Community Opus Project (inspired by Venezuela’s El Sistema youth orchestra program in which even the poorest of children and communities were provided access to music) provides free community-based music programs for at-risk youth in San Diego County. CVESD officials were so impressed by the effects of the program that after less than a year, it invested scarce resources to make expansion possible.

- Strategic Arts Plan: CVESD engaged in writing and implementing the plan with support from the San Diego County Office of Education and The California Arts Project. Implementation steps to date include:
  - hiring a Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator;
  - hiring 66 full time Visual and Performing Arts teachers for their 20,000 students across 46 schools; and
  - funding professional development for general education teachers in the area of Arts Integration.

San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD)
The Learning Through the Arts Initiative was developed to transform school culture and climate through and with the arts. Evidence has shown an increase in student achievement and attendance, decreased disciplinary issues, improved school climate and an overall positive experience in student social and emotional well-being. 22 schools in SDUSD that met a 75 percent or greater Title I eligibility are participating in Learning Through the Arts. In partnership with Young Audiences of San Diego and numerous arts and culture organizations, teaching artists are co-teaching with classroom teachers to advance learning in multiple subjects through the arts. Participating students are experiencing high quality arts opportunities in the performing, visual and media arts. The Learning Through the Arts program supports literacy and math strategies and activities in the classroom that are aligned with the Common Core State Standards and the National Core Arts Standards. The San Diego Unified School District is currently in the process of writing a Strategic Arts Plan with support from the San Diego County Office of Education and The California Arts Project in order to expand student access to high quality, standards-based visual and performing arts instruction.
Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them – a world of work, culture, intellectual activity and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music.

– Gerald Ford, Former President of the United States
REGION 10 — RIMS

REGION 10 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
Dr. Terence K. McAteer, Inyo County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Stacey Adler, Mono County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Kenneth M. Young, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Ted Alejandre, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

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During these tough budget times, it’s imperative for us as educators to think creatively in order to keep arts education alive. Collaborating with the local arts community and arts council helps insure that arts education is alive in the classroom and that students have the opportunity to experience enriching visual and performing arts programs that are essential in the development of the child as a whole.

– Dr. Terence K. McAteer, Inyo County Superintendent of Schools

Collaboration with Inyo Council for the Arts

Implementing the visual and performing arts framework and state standards with regard to curriculum development, and providing students with a quality and rewarding art experience, are continuing priorities of the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools office (ICSOS). A unique partnership was created six years ago between our local arts council, Inyo Council for the Arts (ICA) and ICSOS to provide ongoing arts education programming to schools throughout the county. Although Inyo is a rural county, it is fortunate to have an incredible community of teachers and artists who recognize the importance of keeping arts education in our schools. ICSOS’ partnership with ICA has been instrumental in channeling these arts resources into the classroom.

Through ICSOS’ collaboration with ICA, we have been able to implement a daily music listening program into the curriculum, offer various in-school and after-school arts instruction programs, and present educational and enriching school appearances by visiting musicians and artists. More than just providing assistance to school districts, ICSOS and ICA are taking a new approach to arts education by bridging the gap between the creative communities and educational institutions in our county, creating opportunities for teachers to tap directly into the arts resources available here. With a student population of approximately 2,500 countywide, including remote school districts such as Death Valley, the partnership with ICA was a logical step which has not only proven cost effective but has also allowed the arts council to take a leadership role in arts education across the county.
Inyo County

Art Education Programs

The partnership between ICA and ICSOS has generated a number of programs in the schools and the community that benefit the students of Inyo County.

- **The Brummitt-Taylor Classical Music Listening Program**: This successful program is a five-year daily curriculum developed to teach students about classical composers, compositions, musical vocabulary, and instruments. The program, which has been implemented in 65 K-8 classrooms countywide, goes beyond “music appreciation,” and teaches true musical literacy.

- **K-5 Art Docent Program**: The Art Docent program provides visual art curriculum trainings for volunteer classroom docents who then combine history and art theory lessons with engaging hands-on art activities for students. ICA and ICSOS have brought this program into classrooms across the county, including many Spanish-English dual immersion programs, for the past six years.

- **Workshops and Assemblies**: Nationally and internationally touring musicians present educational workshops at Inyo County schools in conjunction with the annual Millpond Music Festival, produced by ICA. In addition, ICA and ICSOS continue to partner with the University of Nevada Las Vegas’ music department to bring high quality educational presentations to the underserved schools in Inyo County’s most isolated school district, Death Valley.

- **Poetry Out Loud**: ICA and ICSOS facilitate county-wide participation in the National Endowment for the Arts and California Arts Council’s Poetry Out Loud competition, which encourages students to learn about great poetry, master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

- **Inyo County Community Reads**: For the last eight years ICSOS and ICA have presented the Community Reads Program which engages both students and community members in a focused reading of a selected book each year. A series of events relating to a theme from the book is produced, and the program as a whole promotes both literacy and community involvement in our county.

- **Student Art Show at ICA**: Each year ICA welcomes art from students of all ages in many different mediums for a show in their downtown gallery. This is one of the most popular and well attended gallery shows of the year, and students and family members love to see their art displayed in public.

- **After School Art Classes**: ICSOS and ICA, with additional support from the California Arts Council, are in their third year of offering a wide array of after school arts classes in such subjects as oil and watercolor painting, ceramics, music (guitar), beading, caricature drawing, aboriginal dot art, and origami. These classes are taught by local artists and are presented in schools across the county, including schools for at-risk student populations. In addition, the establishment of an ICA art studio on the main ICSOS campus has allowed the Arts Council to offer art classes that are open to all members of the community, in addition to their school offerings.

The collaboration between ICSOS and ICA shows Superintendent McAteer’s commitment to thinking “outside the box” with regards to bringing quality arts education to California’s rural community schools. ICSOS has spearheaded an innovative effort to maintain high quality arts education in our schools by bringing the creative resources of our community into the classroom and actively seeking out artistic and cultural resources to “import” into our isolated county.
Exposure to the arts and the process of creating art is so important in providing opportunities for student self-discovery and connections to their world. We value the arts for themselves, but also how they create pathways for students to actively engage with history, science and other academic areas. We cannot underestimate the value of the arts in developing creativity and the ability to see things differently. Mono County Office of Education is committed to continuing its support of arts programs in all of our Mono county schools and communities.

– Dr. Stacey Adler, Mono County Superintendent of Schools

Student Art Work Displayed
Mono County Office of Education (MCOE) proudly displays student art work in the main offices of both our north and south county locations. The displays are changed biannually and range from elementary pieces to high school projects. They are all framed in beautiful handmade frames. The works can be viewed on our website so that family and friends near or far are still able to appreciate them even if they cannot stop by the offices. [http://www.monocoe.org/](http://www.monocoe.org/)

Calliope Literary Publication
MCOE has for the last two years published Calliope, a literary and art magazine, featuring the work of Mono county school students. With the support of their teachers, exemplary student writing and artwork is identified and submitted for publication. MCOE is thrilled to be able to provide a vehicle for our students to become “published authors and artists.”

Collaboration Makes Art Happen
In collaboration with Mono Arts Council (MAC), MCOE sponsors Summer Art Camps where multiple sessions of painting, sculpting, music, sun prints, 3D, recycled and cultural crafts are explored.
Meet the Masters is another collaborative program providing the opportunity for students to gain exposure to art education and history. Mono County Office of Education provides the funding for the materials and artist/instructors and Mono Arts Council delivers the curriculum in classrooms in every community in Mono County.

**Collaboration Makes Music Happen**

Also in collaboration with MAC, MCOE was a major sponsor of the 2015 inaugural June Lake Jam Fest, where all children and all Mono county school students could attend free. MCOE funded school assemblies with performances by Jam Fest artists prior to the event. This summer MCOE will be one of the sponsors of Summer Music Camps for Mono county students where students will explore different instruments, music genres and will be featured performers at Jam Fest event in September 2016. Through this kind of collaboration, children are exposed to multiple sensory explorations that we hope lead to a life of choices that bring fulfillment and joy to the individual and to the communities where they live.

**Local Theatre Performances and ELA Curriculum**

Each fall, the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre has a performance based on one of the books read in the MCOE Community School ELA programs. Students read, discuss and write about the book and then attend the play with their teachers and classmates. These performances are often the students’ first exposure to the performing arts and provide the opportunity to develop a lifelong love of the theatre.

**ARTS and the Library**

MCOE is fortunate to be the only county office of education to have the responsibility of operating our public libraries. Story time is offered for young children which includes crafts following the story. This reinforces the connection between auditory exposure to literature and turning that experience into a project that the children can take home and enjoy. A summer reading program is offered, encouraging students to explore literary creativity and it is also followed up by crafts. Family concerts are also offered throughout the library branches and some of the musicians carry their musical talents into the schools as well. Children are exposed to many types of music and many types of instruments. Three of our seven libraries have gallery spaces where they host rotating art exhibits. Mammoth Lakes Library also hosts a monthly afterschool art workshop for middle school students.

**A Place for Creativity – Maker Space**

Our Mammoth Lakes Library is the location of Mono County’s first Maker Space, which is equipped with a 3D printer, die cut machine, jewelry making and other tools and supplies to encourage creativity. MCOE has provided workshops for both teachers and students on robotics, 3D printing and coding which enables them to use these tools for project based learning in our classrooms.
The artistry of robotic movement, the twin goals of form and function in web design, and the critical role of innovation and curiosity in the science lab are just a few examples of how the arts have steamrolled their way into the world of STEM education. As I interact with school teachers and leaders throughout Riverside County, I’m encouraged to see how our 23 school districts are making the transition from focusing on STEM fields to embracing the undeniable role of the arts in preparing today’s students to succeed in powering their future in new and exciting ways.

– Mr. Kenneth M. Young, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

A well-prepared student is a well-rounded student, and the arts play a critical role in the development of our students from elementary to high school. The Riverside County Office of Education’s pledge to graduate all students well prepared for college and the workforce includes the commitment to supporting the arts in all of our schools.

Beaumont Unified School District
Arts Education – A Shared Commitment

The Beaumont Unified School District possesses a strong tradition in arts education. The district values art education and believes it is an integral part of the development of each student and that the visual and performing arts offers life-long intrinsic and extrinsic benefits. Supported by the community through the Local Control Accountability Plan process, the district continues to make engagement in the fine arts an essential part of the school curriculum and an important component in the educational program of every student.
A Community of Performers

Through vibrant theater and music programs, Riverside students develop skills which include creativity and imagination, and develop the self-confidence and social skills necessary to succeed in a global environment. An inclusive culture that engages the whole community is particularly strong within the Beaumont Unified School District. Each year, students at all grade levels audition and participate in district-wide theater arts productions that have included *The Music Man*, *The King and I*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Beginning at the elementary level and continuing through high school, students participate in an instrumental music program which includes opportunities to entertain the community with local performances. In addition, students perform at county and regional festivals, as well as at Disneyland. Schools in the Beaumont Unified School District consistently have strong arts programs that are supported by energetic staff, parents, and members of the community.

“Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known.”

– Oscar Wilde, Author
Research tells us about the power of a strong arts education and its influence on the overall academic achievement of our students. Beyond that, we see as educators the incredible draw the arts can have on students and how engaged they become when they have access to visual and performing arts. I am proud of our County schools’ long-term connection to The California Arts Project at California State University, San Bernardino and what it provides to the schools and districts in our region.

– Mr. Ted Alejandre, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) provides technical services and support that are both coordinated and integrated to respond directly to each district’s needs and priorities. SBCSS works in close partnership with RIMS California Arts Project at CSU San Bernardino, the regional site of The California Arts Project, to provide on-going support and services to school districts and schools in the area of arts education for visual and performing arts, career arts, media and entertainment education. The partnership develops teacher leadership in arts education and supports on-going county programs for students such as, the Young Artist Gallery, a juried student visual art exhibition for grades 7–12. The 20 year-old Arts Education Network of San Bernardino County that connects arts educators across the wide county is also the result of the on-going partnership. Through the combined efforts of SBCSS and RIMS California Arts Project the county districts are provided direct support in assessment of current arts education programs, developing strategic arts education plans, designing standards-based arts curriculum, and access to on-going professional development opportunities for multiple and single subject arts educators countywide in a variety of settings.

Partnerships

As the largest county in the United States, partnerships are critical in providing support and opportunities to arts education within San Bernardino County. Over the years, SBCSS has developed and nurtured multiple long-standing partnerships with arts education resources focused on the goal of supporting arts education throughout the county. SBCSS works closely with the following partners: RIMS California Arts Project at CSU San Bernardino, the Music, Theatre and Visual Arts Departments at CSU San Bernardino, Arts Connection: The Arts Council of San Bernardino County, San Bernardino County Music Educators Association, the Robert and Francis Fullerton Museum of Art, and P.L.A.C.E Performance, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing performing opportunities for local emerging choreographers and dancers. Professional learning opportunities, networking and keeping the arts education community TK – university updated are just some of the outcomes of these countywide partnerships.

SBCSS also partners with the four professional arts education organizations: California Art Education Association (CAEA), California Dance Education Association (CDEA), California Educational Theatre Association (CETA), and the California Music Education Association (CMEA) at the local, regional, and statewide levels. Each of the associations brings additional
opportunities for students to participate in festivals, exhibitions, clinics, and workshops. Teachers from these associations serve as clinicians, adjudicators, and leaders on county arts initiatives. These county partnerships provide the capacity and expertise to support arts education to our 33 districts and offer San Bernardino County arts students additional opportunities to perform and exhibit their work.

**Proud County Tradition of Showcasing Music**
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools continues the long and proud tradition of showcasing our county honor bands, orchestras, choirs, and solo festival. Over 2,500 San Bernardino County vocal and instrumental music students participate in the annual countywide events. These opportunities for students are accomplished through an outstanding collaborative effort that involves SBCSS, the San Bernardino County Music Educators Association (SBCMEA), 33 school districts, the University of Redlands, CSU San Bernardino and individual educators from districts across the county.

San Bernardino County vocal music students are able to participate and perform in clinics/festivals for Elementary Choruses, Men’s Chorus and three Secondary Choruses. There are nine county honor groups for instrumental music students. The instrumental groups consist of Elementary, Middle School/ Junior High and High School Honor Bands. To accommodate the wide geographic area of San Bernardino County, SBCSS holds the band performances in both the High Desert and Basin areas. SBCSS showcases orchestra students at elementary, middle and high school for the All-County Honor Orchestras. Elementary honor music students are selected based on teacher recommendations and secondary honor students are selected through an audition process. In addition, SBCSS also supports an adjudicated Solofest for both vocal and instrumental students with the finalists competing for scholarships donated by Idyllwild Arts, Wildwood, and Arrow Bear music camps.

For the second year, San Bernardino County will be the location for the Southern California CMEA State Solo and Small Ensemble Festival held at CSU San Bernardino in May. This event provides an additional opportunity for music students from across Southern California that have received a superior rating at a regional solo and ensemble festival. Festivals that qualify students include the Southern California School Band Orchestra Association, Southern California Vocal Association and California Music Education Association Section Festivals.

**A.B. Miller High School Dance Program**
SBCSS is honored to highlight A.B. Miller High School’s Dance program this year located in the city of Fontana. The student population consists of 86% Hispanic/Latino, 8% African American, 4% Caucasian, and 2% other. In addition, 83% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch and 90% of the students enroll in high school with little to no experience in the visual and performing arts. The A.B. Miller Dance program offers four levels of dance (ballet, jazz, modern and character) in a college preparatory environment as well as choreography studies. Most students take one class per day, five days per week, 180 days per year.

In addition to the academic day program, the dance program also offers the only dance conservatory model on a public school campus in the Inland Empire area. Students in the conservatory program have an eight period day with three of those periods devoted to dance. Currently, there are 202 students in the academic day program and 25 students in the Conservatory of Dance program. Students are encouraged to identify and develop their strengths in each genre of dance while also focusing on areas of improvement to broaden their dance skills. Students are continuously exposed to the opportunities dance can provide in their choices of career and college. Local dance artists and companies are brought onto campus for lecture demonstrations and performances yearly. Master classes in various genres are offered as part of the conservatory program curriculum. Riverside City College’s Dance Department has partnered with A.B. Miller Dance to provide faculty lecturers, choreographers, and campus/dance department tours.
The arts significantly boost student achievement, reduce discipline problems, and increase the odds students will go on to graduate from college. As First Lady Michelle Obama sums up, she and the President believe ‘strongly that arts education is essential for building innovative thinkers who will be our nation’s leaders for tomorrow.’

– Arne Duncan, Former U.S. Secretary of Education
REGION 11 ▪ LOS ANGELES

REGION 11 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
Dr. Arturo Delgado, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

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The arts have always been, and will always be, a vital component of a quality education for our students. Arts programs teach young people to think critically, create, and communicate through the arts; enabling students to engage in our 21st century global society.

– Dr. Arturo Delgado, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

The arts are an essential component of a well-rounded educational experience. The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) provides leadership and support for quality arts programs in 80 school districts serving 1.5 million students within the county. LACOE runs the award-winning Los Angeles County High School for the Arts; sponsors annual regional events promoting arts education; and offers high quality professional learning programs for teachers and administrators.

Golden Bell Award

One LACOE professional learning program, “Teaching Creativity with Common Core State Standards,” received a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association in 2015. This series is designed to create a new vision of instruction that enhances learning through arts integration. Participants learn how to integrate the arts with Common Core Standards and 21st Century skills, using hands-on instruction and real-life examples. This program has inspired 70 school districts to transform arts education in their schools, and continues to inspire art organizations, county offices of education, and state agencies to draw from these successful approaches to enrich their own programs.

This year, LACOE is working in partnership with the J. Paul Getty Museum to host the CCSESA Colloquium at The Getty Center. The Colloquium will be held concurrently with the J. Paul Getty Museum exhibition, “Cave Temples of Dunhuang: Buddhist Art on China’s Silk Road.” 25 years in the making, this exhibition features art that exemplifies the intense religious, artistic, and cultural exchanges along the Silk Road trade routes linking East and West.
Los Angeles County

Supported by the Museum’s scientist and education specialist, Colloquium participants will experience this exhibit in multiple ways. For instance, three replica caves to be constructed on the Museum Plaza; in a traditional gallery with Buddha sculptures, manuscripts, and artifacts; and in a virtual reality experience. Exhibit learning experiences will utilize strategies and protocols that can be incorporated into district, school, and classroom settings.

**Student Educational Programs**

The Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA), run by the LACOE in partnership with California State University, Los Angeles on the university campus, offers a tuition-free specialized program combining college-preparatory academic instruction and conservatory-style training in the visual and performing arts.

Recognized as one of the premier public arts high schools in the country, LACHSA is the recipient of numerous awards, including the California Distinguished School for Academic Excellence, CSBA’s Golden Bell Award, Grammy Signature School, Bravo Award for excellence in arts education and the Exemplary School Designation by the Arts Schools Network.

The Los Angeles County Student Art Exhibition showcases outstanding artwork created by K-12 students. Students, families, and teachers gather to admire student creations and accomplishments, and to engage in art activities that celebrate the arts.

The Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest is conducted by LACOE in partnership with the California Arts Council. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Poetry Foundation, this contest encourages high school students to study and appreciate poetry through practice, performance, and competition.

The Very Special Arts Festival is an annual event celebrating the artistic achievements of students with disabilities and their mainstream peers. The festival which is held at the Los Angeles Music Center, features student art exhibits, student and professional performances on two stage, and visual and performing arts workshops. Cosponsored by LACOE and the Los Angeles Unified School District with generous support from multiple public and private organizations, this popular event is open to students in all grade levels and their families.
CCSESA Arts Initiative Vision and Core Principles
The visual and performing arts are an integral part of a comprehensive curriculum and are essential for learning in the 21st century. All California students—from every culture, geographic region and socio-economic level—deserve quality arts learning in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts as part of the core curriculum.

Rich & Affirming Learning Environments
Create a safe, affirming, and enriched environment for participatory and inclusive learning in and through the visual and performing arts for every group of students.

Empowering Pedagogy
Use culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy that maximizes learning in and through the visual and performing arts, actively accesses and develops student voice, and provides opportunities for leadership for every group of students.

Challenging & Relevant Curriculum
Engage every group of students in comprehensive, well-articulated and age-appropriate visual and performing arts curriculum that also purposefully builds a full range of language, literacy, and other content area skills, including whenever possible, bilingualism, biliteracy, and multiculturalism. This curriculum is cognitively complex, coherent, relevant, and challenging.

High Quality Instructional Resources
Provide and utilize high quality standards-aligned visual and performing arts instructional resources that provide each group of students with equitable access to core curriculum and academic language in the classroom, school, and community.

Valid & Comprehensive Assessment
Build and implement valid and comprehensive visual and performing arts assessment systems designed to promote reflective practice and data-driven planning in order to improve academic, linguistic, and sociocultural outcomes for each specific group of students.

High Quality Professional Preparation & Support
Provide coherent, comprehensive and ongoing visual and performing arts professional preparation and support programs based on well-defined standards of practice. These programs are designed to create professional learning communities of administrators, teachers, and other staff to implement a powerful vision of excellent arts instruction for each group of students.

Powerful Family/Community Engagement
Implement strong family and community engagement programs that build leadership capacity and value and draw upon community funds of knowledge to inform, support, and enhance visual and performing arts teaching and learning for each specific group of students.

Advocacy-Oriented Administrative/Leadership Systems
Provide advocacy-oriented administration and leadership that institute system-wide mechanisms to focus all stakeholders on the diverse visual and performing arts needs and assets of each specific group of students. These administrative and leadership systems structure, organize, coordinate, and integrate visual and performing arts programs and services to respond systemically to the needs and strengths of each group of students.
The California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) Statewide Arts Initiative, has been the leader in the Creativity at the Core initiative which has involved a multi-year statewide effort to create innovative K-12 professional learning resources that incorporate dance, music, theatre and visual arts into the core curriculum in support of California State Standards, including Common Core. Regional Arts Leads from county offices of education partnered with Arts Organization Partners to research, develop, and pilot the professional learning resources. Currently 15 modules exist in the CCSESA suite of resources which can be adapted to California’s different teaching environments and are available online. This initiative has been funded through generous support from The California Arts Council and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Other partners include the California Department of Education, California Association for Bilingual Education, CREATE CA, and Loyola Marymount University.

The modules can be accessed at www.ccsesaarts.org/creativity-at-the-core/.