



fresno county office of education

What Is Arts Education and Why Is It Important?

The Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) in California Schools Are ...

Defined as Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts

Source: Visual and Performing Arts Framework for California Public Schools, Website: www.cde.ca.gov/ci/vp/cf/

Mandated by the State Education Code for grades 1-12 (Sections 51210 and 51211)

Source: California Department of Education, Website: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

Aligned to the California K-12 VAPA Framework and Content Standards

Source: California Department of Education Website: www.cde.ca.gov/ci/vp/cf/

Instructed by highly qualified teachers (No Child Left Behind Act of 2001) in a comprehensive and sequential manner during the regular school day

Sources: California Department of Education Website: www.cde.ca.gov/ci/vp/cf/ U.S. Department of Education, Website: www.ed.gov/nclb/

Supported by VAPA textbooks and materials adopted by the State Board of Education

Source: California State Board of Education, Website: www.cde.ca.gov/BE/

Assisted by historic state funding of the Arts and Music block grants (over \$100 million yearly, 2006-09) to be spent for the following

- professional development of teachers and administrators
- books, equipment, materials and supplies
- hiring of credentialed dance, music, theatre and visual arts teachers

Source: California Department of Education, Website: www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/vp/vapa07faq.asp

And That's Important Because... Arts

educationbenefitsbothteachersandstudents

In schools with strong arts climates, teachers and students both benefit. Teachers found students who had received high levels of arts training to be more cooperative and more willing to share what they had learned than students with low levels of arts training. "High-arts" students were better able to express their ideas, use their imaginations and take risks in learning, as reported by teachers. High-arts students had better rapport with teachers and teachers in arts-rich schools demonstrated more interest in their work and were more likely to become involved in professional development experiences. They were also more likely to be innovative in their teaching.

Source: Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning, ed. Edward B. Fiske, 1999, Arts Education Partnership

Thebenefitsofartseducationdon'tstopattheclassroomdoor.

The qualitative and quantitative findings of an education reform program that places a high value on the arts found that "the arts do contribute to the general school curriculum, to learning for all students, to school and professional culture, to educational and instructional practices, and to the schools' neighborhoods and communities."

Source: Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Academic and Social Development, Richard J. Deasy, 2002, Arts Education Partnership

Arts education benefits the brain and transfers to other learning.

Three-Year Study At Seven Major Universities Finds Strong Links Between Arts Education And Cognitive Development

Washington, DC, March 4, 2008 — Learning, Arts, and the Brain, a study three years in the making, is the result of research by cognitive neuroscientists from seven leading universities across the United States. In the Dana Consortium study, released today at a news conference at the Dana Foundation's Washington, DC headquarters, researchers grappled with a fundamental question: Are smart people drawn to the arts or does arts training make people smarter?

For the first time, coordinated, multi-university scientific research brings us closer to answering that question. Learning, Arts, and the Brain advances our understanding of the effects of music, dance, and drama education on other types of learning. Children motivated in the arts develop attention skills and strategies for memory retrieval that also apply to other subject areas.

Source: Dana Foundation website, www.dana.org

Arts education builds skills for the 21st century workforce

The arts are one tool used by states to enhance workforce readiness for students in both the general and at-risk populations. Programs incorporating the arts have proven to be educational, developmentally rich, and cost-effective ways to provide students the skills they need to be productive participants in today's economy. Arts programs combine academic and workforce development skills in a manner attractive to participants of all age groups and economic backgrounds.⁵

Source: The Impact of Arts Education on Workforce Preparation, Issue Brief 2002. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices

Arts education is highly valued by most Americans

New Harris Poll Reveals that 93 Percent of Americans Believe that the Arts are Vital to Providing a Well-Rounded Education

Austin, TX—June 13, 2005. A new Harris Poll released today on the attitudes of Americans toward arts education revealed that 93 percent of Americans agree that the arts are vital to providing a well-rounded education for children. Additionally, 54 percent rated the importance of arts education a “ten” on a scale of one to ten.

The survey reveals additional strong support among Americans for arts education:

- * 86 percent of Americans agree that an arts education encourages and assists in the improvement of a child's attitudes toward school.

- * 83 percent of Americans believe that arts education helps teach children to communicate effectively with adults and peers.

- * 79 percent of Americans agree that incorporating arts into education is the first step in adding back what's missing in public education today.

- * 79 percent of Americans believe that it's important enough for them to get personally involved in increasing the amount and quality of arts education.

Source: Americans for the Arts website, www.artsusa.org

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