



California Arts Advocacy Toolkit ARTS FACT SHEET

California Policy:

1999: California's 4-year state universities adopt a new visual and performing arts requirement, adding 1 year of arts coursework for admission, beginning with students entering in 2003.

2001: The State Board of Education approves the *Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards*, which set forth what students should know and be able to do at each grade level in the four arts disciplines: music, visual arts, theatre, and dance.

2001: The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing adopts new program standards that revise the subject matter requirements for the multiple-subject credential to include training in the visual and performing arts, beginning in 2004.

2004: The state's existing *Visual and Performing Arts Framework* is revised to support curriculum development and instructional practices in the arts aligned with the standards.

2006: California policy-makers commit funding to support arts education: \$500 million in one-time funds for the arts and physical education and \$105 million per year in ongoing funds.

Benefits of Arts Education:

An education in the arts enhances a student's problem-solving and critical thinking skills which aids their learning in other subject areas.

Arts education exposes students to a variety of cultures while enriching their learning experience and teaching them how to be empathetic, tolerant and open to working with others, all necessary skills for success in a multi-cultural society.

The arts in education helps better prepare students for college and the workforce by giving them the necessary skills-innovation, creativity and imagination to be successful and competitive in today's global market.

A comprehensive arts curriculum nurtures a collaborative school culture, building a sense of community within a school and creates ties to surrounding communities.

A well-rounded arts education program increases students' attendance and behavior, creating a stronger learning environment.

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