



## California Arts Advocacy Toolkit RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the arts is recognized as the 4<sup>th</sup> R and along with reading, writing and arithmetic is an essential part of basic education for all students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 through 12; and

WHEREAS, the state of California's education code recognizes the arts as a core required course and has created content standards in the arts stating what each student should know and be able to do at each grade level in the various art disciplines of music, dance, theater, and visual arts; and

WHEREAS, A well-rounded arts education program increases students' attendance and behavior, creates a stronger learning environment and nurtures a collaborative school culture, building a sense of community within a school and creating ties to surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, The arts aids a student's imagination and creativity, enhances their problem-solving and critical thinking skills and aids their learning in other subject areas; and

WHEREAS, The arts provide students with the necessary skills for success in a multi-cultural society, exposing them to a variety of cultures and teaching them how to be empathetic, tolerant and open to working with others; and

WHEREAS, The arts help 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; and

WHEREAS, The University of California and the California State University have adopted a one year visual and performing arts admission requirement that includes the completion of a college preparatory course in dance, music, theater or the visual arts for admission; and

WHEREAS, The state of California has recognized the importance of quality in instruction by revising the subject-matter requirements for their teacher's credential to include training in the visual and performing arts; and

WHEREAS, the state of California revised the Visual and Performing Arts Framework to support curriculum development and instructional practices in the arts aligned with the standards so schools can fully integrate the arts into their curriculums; and

WHEREAS, California's policy-makers have signed into law \$105 million in ongoing funds to support instruction and \$500 million in one time funds for equipment, supplies and professional development, which has been recognized as the single largest investment in arts education and music programs in our country's history; and

WHEREAS, all students in the state of California are entitled to receive a well-rounded education that includes a standards-based arts curriculum taught by well-trained teachers with high quality materials and facilities; now,

*Therefore be it Resolved by (MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATION), of (Location) that the (NAME OF ORGANIZATION) recognizes the importance of arts in education and encourages all teachers, parents, administrators, lawmakers and the public to become interested in and give full support to the development and implementation of comprehensive visual and performing arts programs in (Name of County) public schools.*

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