



Today, arts and creative learning are essential to the future of our students.

In order to succeed in college, career, and life, America’s young people need a complete and balanced education that provides a broad range of skills and knowledge. They need the ability to think creatively, to collaborate, to create, and to solve complex problems—all skill areas that are developed through quality instruction in the arts.

“Arts education is essential for building innovative thinkers who will be our nation’s leaders of tomorrow.”

Michelle Obama

First Lady of the United States

Unfortunately, far too many of our public school students don’t have access to music, dance, theater, and visual or media arts as part of their school day.

If we are serious about boosting graduation rates, improving struggling schools, and giving our students the best opportunities to succeed and thrive, we need to make sure that every child in every school has equal access to the arts and creative learning.

Here are some key facts to help you make the case for more arts at your child’s school:

Students involved in the arts are...



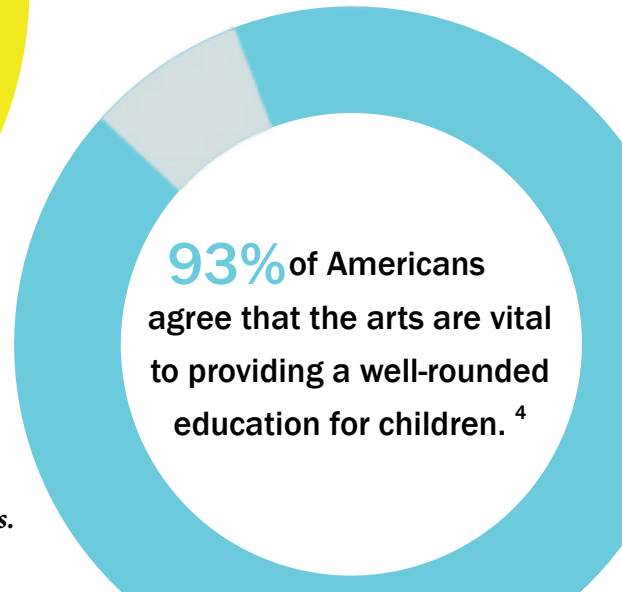
4X MORE LIKELY to be recognized for academic achievement.



3X MORE LIKELY to win a school attendance award. ²

Students involved in the arts feel less bored in school and watch fewer hours of TV at home! ³

72% of business leaders say that **CREATIVITY** is the number one skill they seek when hiring. ¹

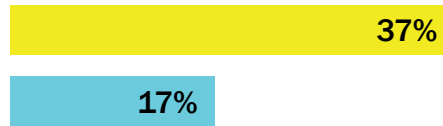


Quality education includes the arts.

At-risk students with access to the arts — inside or outside classrooms — do better academically, aim higher in their career goals, and become more civically involved.⁵

Arts and creative learning supports the **PERSONAL, ARTISTIC, CIVIC,** and **SOCIAL** development of our nation's students.

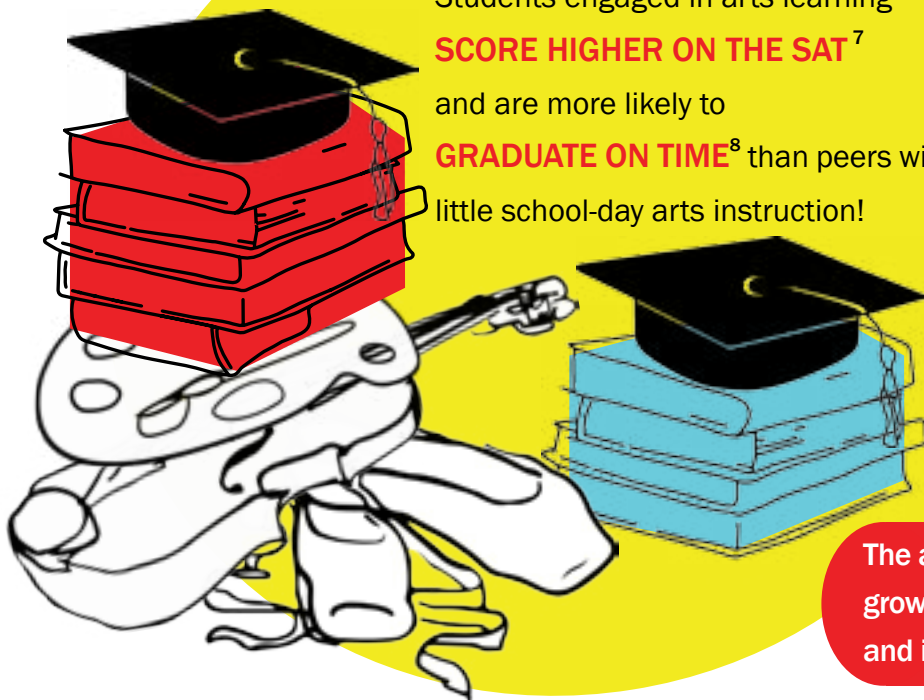
Low-income students highly engaged in the arts are **MORE THAN TWICE** as likely to graduate from college than peers with no arts education.⁶



Students engaged in arts learning **SCORE HIGHER ON THE SAT⁷** and are more likely to **GRADUATE ON TIME⁸** than peers with little school-day arts instruction!



Students who participate in the arts are **LESS LIKELY** to receive out-of-school suspensions.⁹



The arts **INSPIRE** students and promote growth in **SELF-CONFIDENCE, EMPATHY,** and increased **SOCIAL TOLERANCE.¹⁰**

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2. Brice Heath, S. (1998). Living the Arts Through Language + Learning: A Report on Community-Based Youth Organizations. *Americans for the Arts Monograph*, 2 (7).
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4. Americans for the Arts (2005). New Harris Poll Reveals That 93% of Americans Believe That the Arts Are Vital to Providing a Well-Rounded Education. Media release.
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7. The College Board (2011). *College-Bound Seniors: Total Group Profile Report*. Retrieved from http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/cbs2011_total_group_report.pdf.
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9. Scheuler, Leslie (2010). *Arts Education Makes a Difference in Missouri Schools*. Missouri Alliance for Arts Education.
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