

# ARTS EDUCATION FOR AMERICA'S STUDENTS:

---

## A SHARED ENDEAVOR

The arts<sup>1</sup> are part of a balanced education, providing America's learners with essential skills and knowledge they need to be productive, college and career ready citizens. A core academic subject of learning,<sup>2</sup> the arts are supported by a rigorous set of voluntary national standards<sup>3</sup> and assessment frameworks<sup>4</sup> designed to improve and support arts learning. In addition, forty-nine states support sequential arts learning in their public schools with state-adopted arts standards.<sup>5</sup>

The American public values a quality arts education in our schools.<sup>6</sup> When America's public schools invest in certified arts educators, students gain the opportunity for a sequential, standards-based education in the arts. Certified non-arts educators in schools expand students' opportunities for arts learning by providing curricular connections among the arts and other subjects.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, students gain deeper, additional standards-based arts learning experiences through America's cultural organizations, community arts organizations, and teaching artists. It is the convergence of the contributions of all partners and opportunities that provides a quality arts education for our students.

Despite the rich body of data<sup>8</sup> demonstrating how students benefit from quality arts education, many American children lack access to it in their schools. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, students in high poverty schools are more than twice as likely to have no access to the arts.<sup>9</sup> We believe that the inequity of access to quality arts education must be addressed. Too often, arts education is squeezed out of America's public schools.

An education without the arts is inadequate. Therefore, we call on our public policy leaders to provide a systemic and rigorous arts education for all students in all public schools by leveraging the expertise and experience of the partners involved in arts education. To this end, the signatories of this document will support efforts to:

- Advance policies and resources that ensure access to arts education for all students—delivered by certified arts educators—and that develop artistic literacy through a sequential, standards-based arts education.
- Ensure that all students have access to in-school and community arts learning opportunities that add value to a standards-based PK-12 education in America's public schools.
- Encourage certified arts educators, community arts providers and certified non-arts educators to provide quality arts education for their students by collaborating together in support of improved instructional and classroom practices.
- Foster proactive, long-term advocacy collaborations among certified arts educators, community arts providers, and certified non-arts educators that engage parents, school leaders, and other key stakeholders to support student access to high-quality arts education throughout the school and community.



---

## ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

Asterisked organizations participated in the May 6th, 2013 National Arts Accord Summit and worked in collaboration to create and disseminate this Statement.

★ AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR THEATRE AND EDUCATION*	★ NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF STATE ARTS AGENCIES*	★ THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS*
★ AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS*	★ NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION*	★ NATIONAL GUILD FOR COMMUNITY ARTS EDUCATION*
★ ASSOCIATION OF ART MUSEUM DIRECTORS	★ NATIONAL DANCE EDUCATION ORGANIZATION*	★ PHI MU ALPHA SINFONIA
★ EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION*	★ NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION*	★ STATE EDUCATION AGENCY DIRECTORS OF ARTS EDUCATION*
★ LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS*	★ NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION*	★ YOUNG AUDIENCES ARTS FOR LEARNING*

---

**Interested in endorsing this statement? Email [SharedEndeavor@gmail.com](mailto:SharedEndeavor@gmail.com)**

<sup>1</sup> The arts are defined here as dance, media arts, music, theatre and visual arts, following the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards, <http://nccas.wikispaces.com>. Each state defines the arts differently within statute. Reference <http://www.aep-arts.org/research-policy/state-policy-database/> for further state information.

<sup>2</sup> Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title IX, Section 9101, 11, <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg107.html> ; <http://www.aep-arts.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/State-of-the-states-2012-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/standards.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/arts/howdevelop.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.aep-arts.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/State-of-the-states-2012-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> 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," <http://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/news/press-releases/2005/06/New-Harris%20Poll-Reveals-93-Percent-of-Americans-Believe-Arts-are-Vital-to-Well-Rounded-Education.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://nccas.wikispaces.com/file/view/Arts%20and%20Common%20Core%20-%20final%20report1.pdf/404993792/Arts%20and%20Common%20Core%20-%20final%20report1.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/networks-and-councils/arts-education-network/tools-resources/arts-ed-navigator/facts>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.aep-arts.org/resources-2/report-arts-education-in-public-elementary-and-secondary-schools/>