What School Leaders Can Do to Increase Arts Education

Learning in and through the arts helps develop the essential knowledge, skills and creative capacities all students need to succeed in school, work and life.

A. Establish a schoolwide commitment to arts learning.

B. Create an arts-rich learning environment.

C. Examine the use of time and resources.

ENDNOTES

Please visit www.ArtsEdSearch.org.

About the Arts Education Partnership

The Arts Education Partnership at Education Commission of the States is a national coalition of more than 100 education policy organizations and 200 university-based and other organizations that was created in 1995 by the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Education.

ENDNOTES


8. Ibid.


13. Ibid.

14. Literature on arts and achievement is extensive. What all the research shows is that: (1) Arts help develop the essential knowledge, skills and creative capacities all students need to succeed in school, work and life; (2) The arts are an integral part of the school day, and are a critical component of a well-rounded education; (3) Arts learning is cumulative, mutually reinforcing and sustainable over time; and (4) Arts learning is effective; and strengthens parent and community involvement.

15. Leaders interested in strengthening arts education in Appalachia’s schools can reach out to their local arts integration teams or contact the Arts Education Partnership through the Arts in the Hillybilly Journal, a monthly for teachers through Appalachia’s states, at http://www.aep-arts.org/.

Acknowledgments

The Arts Education Partnership thanks the following individuals for their insights and expertise in preparing this guide.

L. Carl Franks, Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals.

700 Broadway, Suite 180
 Denver, CO 80203
 aep-arts.org


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1. Identify the arts in the budget. Establishing a budget line item for the arts can further align educational goals and outcomes fit within the school’s overall educational goals.

2. Engage parents. Parents’ involvement is key to the success of arts education programs. Parents can help increase student engagement and attendance by being actively involved in school events, such as dances, performances, and art shows. Parents can also provide support through volunteering, assisting with transportation, or donating art supplies.

3. Create a schoolwide arts learning community. A strong school culture is essential for arts education. Schools can create a schoolwide arts learning community by incorporating the arts into various aspects of school life, such as daily instruction, extracurricular activities, and professional development for teachers.

4. Involve the local arts community. Schools can collaborate with local arts organizations, such as museums, galleries, and theaters, to provide unique learning experiences for students. These partnerships can enrich school with rich, comprehensive programs that are not simply add-on experiences.

5. Incorporate arts education into staffing and hiring decisions. School principals can reinforce the emphasis on using the arts in instruction by incorporating arts education into staffing and hiring decisions. This can include hiring teachers who specialize in arts education and providing professional development opportunities for all teachers.

6. Provide arts-based professional development. Educators who integrate the arts need support and leadership in helping them build school-wide arts programs and practices, robust parent engagement and improved student performance.

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