

Arts Education

AND THE CA DASHBOARD



IMPACT OF ARTS EDUCATION ON CA SCHOOL DASHBOARD INDICATORS

Citations available at the following link: bit.ly/3LrqipN

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Students who are in schools that have greater access to the arts may be significantly less likely to be chronically absent¹ because the arts incentivize student attendance^{2,3,4} and maximize student engagement.⁵

SUSPENSION RATE

Schools that have more arts offerings have reduced out of school suspensions as well as high school dropout rates. "Arts students were 20% less likely to have an out-of-school suspension for each year of arts studied."⁶

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRESS

All students, including English Learners, should have meaningful access to a full standards-based and relevant curriculum and the opportunity to develop proficiency in English and other languages.⁷ The arts engage students in collective sense-making in a common language that extends beyond native languages.⁸

GRADUATION RATE

Arts education can improve academic performance and helps to keep students engaged in school and graduating. If the male graduation rate were increased by only 5 percent, the nation would see an annual savings of \$4.9 billion in crime-related costs. Cutting the national annual dropout rate in half would likely support as many as 54,000 new jobs and increase the gross domestic product by as much as \$9.6 billion.⁹

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Research demonstrates a correlation between students with a high prevalence of arts education in their schooling experience and achievement in ELA, Math, and other subject areas.^{10, 11, 12}

COLLEGE/CAREER

As schools are expected to prepare students for a professional life that will likely encompass more than one occupation during their lifetime, programs that foster flexibility, promote tolerance for ambiguity, encourage risk-taking, and depend upon the exercise of judgment will have significant impact in the development of thinking skills.¹³ Education in the arts provides a unique opportunity for students to develop cognitive, social, cultural, and emotional capacities.



BENEFITS FOR SPECIFIC STUDENT GROUPS

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BIPOC STUDENTS

Black and Hispanic students have less than half of the access to arts education than their White peers.¹⁴ *Note: the creators of this document recognize that indigenous students are not represented in this research. Sadly, there is very little research in the U.S. on the impact of arts education on indigenous youth.*

SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

Students with low socioeconomic status (SES) with a high participation in the arts have a dropout rate of 4 percent, compared to peers with a low participation in the arts who have a dropout rate of 22 percent.¹⁵

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The arts exercise children's critical capacity for decision-making and problem solving, which are important developments for preparing children with disabilities to be active and independent citizens.¹⁶

FOSTER YOUTH

The art room is a space where students can explore their identities and freely express themselves. Students develop the ability to see past their trauma and to identify positive attributes in themselves, creating a sense of empowerment, a safe classroom environment, and a positive sense of self.¹⁷

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Research shows that meaningful and accessible arts activities can have significant impacts on youth social connectedness, better developmental outcomes, improved mental health, and recovery from trauma. Research has shown that street-involved youth saw creating art as "something vital to survival."^{18, 19}