Three ways districts can include arts education in their 3-year improvement plans

When designing the state required three-year improvement plan, Arts For All recommends including arts education as part of the “evidence-based programs, supports and interventions that the school district will implement” to close achievement gaps.

Here are three ways to incorporate arts education into these plans:

1. **Increase** the number of certified Arts educators.
2. **Provide funding** to create and implement an Arts curriculum based on the new Arts Curriculum Framework adopted by DESE in 2019.
3. **Invest in opportunities** for Arts Integration across the curriculum through joint planning time and increased staffing.

Why The Arts are a Key to Student Success

- Learning one or more arts literacies enhances and supports linguistic and numerical literacies.
- Artistic Literacy gives students the tools to interpret and evaluate contemporary complex media and digital messages constantly received.
- Artistic Literacy unlocks centuries of knowledge expressed by artists throughout history.
The Arts Impact General Education

Research studies have concluded that there is a positive correlation between strong Arts programs and improved educational outcomes. Schools with Arts-strong programs typically:

- Have overall better student test scores in ELA and Math. This impact often is the strongest among students typically at risk academically (low-income, SPED, and ELL)
- Have overall better student attendance and reduced tardiness
- Have reduced disciplinary issues, fewer suspensions and expulsions
- Have students who express a more positive attitude about school and learning

The Arts develop creativity, 21st-Century skills

Students engaged in the Arts exhibit curiosity, creativity, deeper focus and concentration, leadership, and ability to work cooperatively—21st-Century skills that corporations constantly list as essential for the modern workplace.

The Arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution, and that questions can have more than one answer.

The Arts contribute to a well-rounded education

Arts provide a way to recognize and interpret our own emotions and understand ourselves better. They help students envision, express and explore imaginary worlds.

Arts support multi-cultural respect and awareness and help students understand and value differences among races, ethnicities, cultures, religions, historical periods, and geographic areas.

What are More Ways Districts Can Increase Student Access to Arts?

- Review your school’s Arts data on the DESE website report card. What is the status of Arts in your school?
- Create a strategic plan to improve arts education with clear goals and measurable results

To learn more and access research please visit: www.mass-creative.org/afa_soa

The Arts for All Coalition is a collaboration between non-profit organizations and public agencies. We work in coalition to ensure all students have equitable access to and active participation in a robust arts education through the entire public education spectrum.