

College & Career Readiness

Arts Education Is Essential

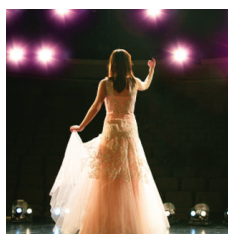
All Texas students deserve a well-rounded education that includes the arts. Fine arts courses provide students a safe place to **express themselves, take risks, and collaborate** with others. Students in arts courses develop essential characteristics for a successful future:

- **Confidence**
- **Effective communication**
- **Analytical reasoning**
- **Problem-solving**
- **Creativity**
- **Accountability**
- **Perseverance**
- **Ingenuity**
- **Flexibility and adaptability**



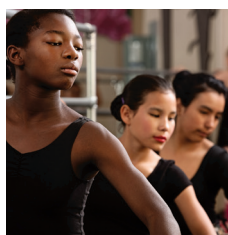
Arts education is not a frill; it is beneficial to every student. The arts help teachers reach students across a broad spectrum of learning styles and raise achievement in at-risk students, young children, underserved populations, and students with disabilities.

—Gaston Caperton, President, The College Board (2010)



Other States Use Arts As a Measure of School Quality

Five states already include the arts in their accountability systems, and others are considering adding similar measures. —*Education Week* (March 7, 2017)



Texas leads the nation in arts education, and how we examine school quality should reflect our commitment to offer all students a well-rounded education.

The arts are a response to our individuality and our nature and help to shape our identity. The arts are not a frill and should not be treated as such. They have the potential to become the driving force for healing division and divisiveness.

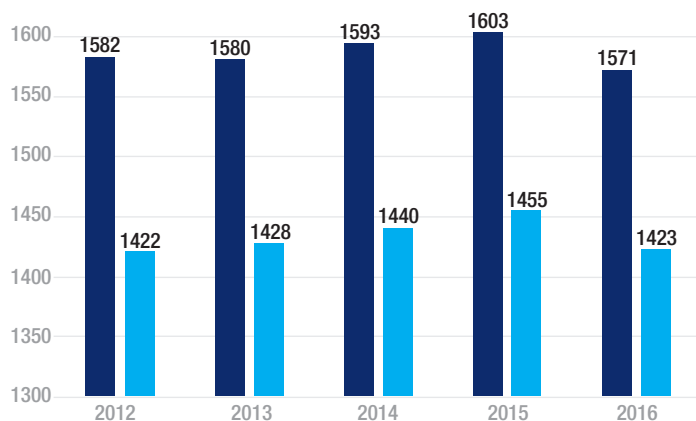
— Former Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan —

The College Board reports that **students with four years of music/arts study score 10–12% higher on the SAT than others.**

Texas schools with more students in music classes have:

- **better academic ratings**
- **fewer discipline problems**
- **higher attendance rates**

SAT Scores of Fine Arts Students



■ Students with 4 years of music/arts study
 ■ Students with less than a half-year of music/arts study

Source: The College Board College Bound Seniors Total Group Profile Reports, 2012–2016.

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The Impact of Fine Arts



Art and culture industries generate **\$5.5 billion** to the Texas economy and contribute **\$343 million** in state sales tax revenue.



Our state's creative sector employs **1 in 15** Texans—nearly 800,000 innovation workers.



In 2016, **1.89 million** Texas students in grades 6–12 studied fine arts in school.

Sources: Texas Cultural Trust and TEA PEIMS data.

School districts should be recognized and rewarded for providing meaningful learning opportunities in the arts.



Texas Leads the Nation

Sir Ken Robinson, internationally acclaimed education policy authority and arts advocate, devotes several pages in his latest book, *Creative Schools*, to praising the Texas House Public Education Committee and Texas Legislature for leading the way to personalized strategies that take into account the different talents of students. He acknowledges the need for new paths to graduation for high school students who have many different goals for their futures.

The keys to the kingdom are changing hands . . . we need to make sure we are preparing our kids for their future and not our past. Arts education is not ornamental but fundamental for economic reasons.

—Dan Pink, author of *A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future*

STEAM for Student Success

There is a rapidly expanding movement across the country to integrate the arts into STEM initiatives. To quote a *Scientific American* op ed, “There is a growing group of advocates who believe that STEM is missing a key component—one that is equally deserving of renewed attention, enthusiasm and funding. That component is the Arts. If these advocates have their way, STEM would become STEAM.” In that same article, celebrated physicist Richard Feynman is quoted as saying, “Scientific creativity is imagina-

tion in a straitjacket. Perhaps the arts can loosen that restraint, to the benefit of all.”

Arts education teaches the flexible thinking, risk-taking, and creative problem-solving needed to solve today’s most complex and pressing challenges.

Nobel laureates in the sciences are seventeen times likelier than the average scientist to be a painter, twelve times as likely to be a poet, and four times as likely to be a musician.

—*Scientific American*, Aug. 22, 2012

