

Protect ARTS ED NOW!

MAKING THE CASE FOR THE VALUE OF ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Education is NOT Optional. Arts Education is Essential. Arts Education is a Core Subject.

Looking Ahead to the 2021-2022 School Year

Teaching and learning will never quite be the same in our post-COVID-19 world. However, our commitment to provide rich and varied educational experiences remains unwavering. The arts have played an important role in these tumultuous times and will continue to do so for all students, including the traditionally underrepresented, those with special needs, and from low-income families.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! These points will help.

All PreK-12 students have the right to a high-quality school-based arts education in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts taught by certified professional arts educators in partnership with community arts providers.

This is understood and supported by both federal and New Jersey policy makers. In New Jersey, arts education is defined as a core subject based on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, is required for all students, and is constitutionally protected as part of a "through and efficient education." These learning expectations did not change because of the pandemic and they remain in force as our schools prepare for a post-pandemic world.

Arts education supports the social emotional well-being of students, whether through distance learning or in person. Self-awareness, self-efficacy, self-management and perseverance, social awareness, and relationship skills are central to any arts education activity, no matter the age and ability of the student or the environment in which the learning takes place. The arts, with their strong emphasis on team-building and self-reflection are supremely suited to re-ignite students' interest in learning through collaboration, while simultaneously fostering creativity, critical thinking, and communication.

"An education without the arts is inadequate."

Arts education nurtures the creation of a welcoming school environment where students can express themselves in a safe and positive way.

Celebrating our ability to come together as educators and students is vital to creating a healthy and inclusive school community. The arts, through a rich partnership among certified arts educators, teaching artists, and community arts providers, play a valuable role in helping students and their families build and sustain community and cultural connections.

NJ Students & Teachers Need You **NOW!**
Get Active at [ArtsEdNow.org](https://www.ArtsEdNow.org)



Talking Points

What to call for:

1. Arts education programs **continue to be funded adequately.**
2. Arts classes are **offered across all arts disciplines and appropriately scheduled.**
3. Curriculum and scheduling designed to **address "learning loss" includes the arts.**
4. **Arts educators continue to be employed** and teach in the discipline for which they were trained.
5. **Materials and resources** that are critical to an arts program's success **should always be available.**
6. **Professional development for arts educators** be appropriate and comparable to that of other subject area teachers.
7. **Facilities** built and furnished **for arts-based activities** be **used for that purpose.**
8. Arts educator evaluation be done in the larger context of professional development and **mindful of the "new norms" of practice adopted under the pandemic era.**