

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R26-0682.01 Olivia Nesselroade x2670

SR26-003

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Snyder and Baisley,

Senate Committees

SENATE RESOLUTION 26-003

101 CONCERNING DESIGNATING MARCH AS "ARTS EDUCATION MONTH"
102 IN COLORADO.

1 WHEREAS, Arts education, which comprises a rich array of
2 disciplines such as dance, media arts, music, film and theatre arts, visual
3 arts, and more, is a well-rounded subject and is an essential element of a
4 complete education for all students; and

5 WHEREAS, A substantive and sequential visual and performing
6 arts curriculum enables students to develop critical thinking and
7 problem-solving skills, imagination and creativity, discipline and
8 collaboration, alternative ways to communicate and express feelings and
9 ideas, and cross-cultural understanding, which support academic success
10 across the curriculum; and

11 WHEREAS, Arts education contributes to increased attendance
12 and graduation rates; elevates academic achievement; enhances social and
13 emotional learning; and paves the way for students to achieve college,
14 career, and citizenship readiness; and

15 WHEREAS, To succeed in today's economy, students must

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

1 masterfully develop skills that business leaders demand in a 21st century
2 workforce, including the ability to be creative, communicate effectively,
3 collaborate with peers, think critically, and innovate; and

4 WHEREAS, Although arts education is part of a well-rounded
5 education according to federal statute, access to quality arts education is
6 not widely available or consistent across Colorado; and

7 WHEREAS, Standards for dance; drama, film, and theatre arts;
8 music; and visual arts have been fully embedded in the Colorado
9 academic standards and are updated every six years, but there is no
10 statewide instructional requirement for elementary schools, middle
11 schools, or high schools; and

12 WHEREAS, Colorado is one of only two states that does not
13 collect data on course-level offerings in the arts across all districts or data
14 on student participation in specific forms of art, such as dance, music,
15 theatre, or visual arts, which leads to difficulty in evaluating the equitable
16 access to arts education for Colorado students, schools, and districts; and

17 WHEREAS, The arts are a valued and integral part of life in the
18 United States and in Colorado, are essential for a complete education, and
19 contribute immensely to the vibrancy and vitality of communities and the
20 nation; now, therefore,

21 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly*
22 *of the State of Colorado:*

23 (1) That, to align with Music in Our Schools Month, Theatre in
24 Our Schools Month, Dance in Your Schools Month, and Youth Art
25 Month, all of which are celebrated nationally in March each year, the
26 Colorado General Assembly designates March as "Arts Education Month"
27 to commemorate, celebrate, and advance the vital role that arts learning
28 plays in a complete and comprehensive education; and

29 (2) That the state of Colorado recognizes the need to expand
30 equitable access to quality arts education across the state to serve all
31 students.

32 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution be sent to
33 Governor Jared Polis and the members of the Colorado State Board of
34 Education.