

SB18-008 Public Entities that Provide Student Access to ARTS “Concerning Measures to Reward Public Education Entities that Provide Student Access to Arts Education Programs”

Fact Sheet

Under current law, accreditation for school districts and the state charter school institute and the level of performance for public schools is based on the attainment of specific indicators. SB18-008 adds an additional indicator that school districts may optionally choose to use, that measures the degree to which a school provides access to courses in dance, drama and theatre, music, and visual arts.

- Students with intensive arts involvement in middle and high school had higher academic achievement, higher rates of college attendance, and higher rates of persistence in college than those with low arts involvement in middle and high school. This is especially pronounced for low-income students and English language learners in arts-rich high schools.
- Young people who participate in the arts for at least 3 hours on three days each week through at least one full year are: 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, 4 times more likely to participate in a math and science fair, and 4 times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem. (*Living the Arts through Language + Learning: A Report on Community Based Youth Organizations*, Shirley Bryce Heath, Stanford University and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Nov 1998)
- Children who receive arts-integrated education develop quick minds, discipline, focus, judgment, personal drive, experience in teamwork, attention to detail, grasp of the “big picture,” and an essential urge to continue learning.
- The arts teach children that creativity requires them to take risks, to experiment with new ideas – to try new approaches to problem-solving. The arts develop critical thinking and teach students how to give and receive criticism in a constructive way.
- The arts stimulate school attendance and anchors programs for at-risk kids. (Colorado has the 3rd highest rate high school dropout rate in the country – close to 40%) (Elliot Eisner, Stanford School of Education)
- Young adults are also more likely to have jobs that paid family-sustaining wages, more likely to vote, and more likely to volunteer if they were students in a school with intensive arts involvement.
- Based on polling, 81% of the American public believe that the arts and humanities contribute to the economic health and well-being of society, 80% believe that the arts and humanities make their local community a better place to live (National Cultural Alliance “The Importance of the

Arts and Humanities to American Society”), and 79% favors a governmental role in funding the arts (Louis Harris Poll).

- The business leaders polled in 2008 Conference Board survey concurred that arts education is a critical component of preparing students to be productive contributors to U.S. businesses.
- By investing in the arts and incorporating arts and culture into their economic development plans, states can reap numerous benefits – economic, social, civic, and cultural – that help generate a more stable, creative workforce; new tourism; and more livable communities.
- A 2008 study released by Colorado Creative Industries shows that at the time 186,251 jobs in the state are associated with creative enterprises and creative occupations. Colorado’s creative enterprises alone employed over 122,000 individuals in about 8,000 establishments. This accounts for 3.9% of the state’s estimated 3.2 million jobs, making it Colorado’s 5th largest employment sector, almost as large as biotechnology/biomedical and IT & telecommunications, and larger than defense & security and agribusiness, food processing & technology.
- Colorado is a magnet for creative talent, ranking 5th among all states for concentration of artist. Colorado ranks 2nd in concentration of architects, 7th in concentration of writers, designers, entertainers and performers, and 8th in concentration of photographers. (Arts for Colorado, April 5, 2012)