



THE MINNESOTA ARTS EDUCATION DATA PROJECT

WHY STUDY ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION?

How do parents know their students have access to arts education in their schools? How do community members or prospective residents review offerings available to young people? It has been challenging to find the answer. Under both state and federal law, schools and districts must report students' access to arts courses and instruction to the state. Minnesota, along with all other states, now collects this data.⁽¹²⁾

Creative Minnesota launched a new partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Perpich Center for Arts Education to bring this information to light, while giving parents and communities new tools to understand if their young people have equitable access to arts education.

This study covers one year of data from the **2016/2017 school year, in high school grades 9 through 12, from 482 public and charter schools serving 252,181 students.** There are no private schools in the data. Information on more grades will become available over time. While the results are summarized here, much more information is available at CreativeMN.org, including details from each reporting school.

BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL LAW REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE ARTS EDUCATION

Minnesota law⁽¹⁾ has required the arts as part of all students' education for over two decades. The state statutes that describe required access to arts education read as follows:

"The following subject areas are required for statewide accountability..."

- *Public **elementary and middle schools must offer at least three and require at least two** of the following four arts areas: dance; music; theater; and visual arts.*
- *Public **high schools must offer at least three and require at least one** of the following five arts areas: media arts; dance; music; theater; and visual arts.*
- *Students...**must successfully complete the following high school level credits for graduation...one credit of the arts** sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts.*

(1) MN Statutes 2014, Section 120B.021, subd. 1 and 120B.024 Subd. 1 (6).

Federal law⁽²⁾ has also included the arts as core subjects since the passage of the *Goals 2000 Education Reform Act* in 1994 and also the *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001. Currently, the *Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA)* of 2015 includes the arts as part of a well-rounded education:

*"(52) WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION.—The term 'well-rounded education' means courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, **arts**, history, geography, computer science, **music**, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject, as determined by the State or local educational agency, with the purpose of **providing all students access** to an enriched curriculum and educational experience."*

(2) Every Child Succeeds Act, Title VIII, Section 800