

Strengthen Arts Education in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Legislative Recommendations

Retain the Arts in the Definition of Core Academic Subjects of Learning

The federal government requires that a complete education for every child include rigorous instruction in all “core academic subjects”— a designation given to the arts in the No Child Left Behind Act.

Retain the arts in the definition of core academic subjects.

No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, Title IX General Provisions, Part A Definitions, Sec. 9101 Definitions (11)
CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS – The term ‘core academic subjects’ means English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civic and government, economics, arts, history, and geography.

Require Annual State Reports on Student Access to Core Academic Subjects

Collecting and reporting the status and condition of arts education and other core academic subjects at the state level is critical to ensuring equitable access to a comprehensive education for all students.

Amend Title I., Part A , Subpart 1 Basic Program Requirements, Sec. 1111(h) State Plans to require states to collect and report annually comprehensive information about the status and condition of all core academic subjects for which challenging academic standards apply. Such information should include number and range of course offerings, student enrollment in each of the core subjects, pupil/teacher ratios, amount of instructional time, budget allocation, subject teacher certification, full time equivalent teacher employment, amount of professional development in each of the core subjects, and other such measures chosen by the state to be significant in the subject area.

Improve National Data Collection and Research in Arts Education

The U.S. Department of Education’s research efforts must be strengthened by systematically including the arts in studies conducted on the condition of education, practices that improve academic achievement, and the effectiveness of Federal and other education programs.

Amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Public Law 107-279, Title III, Section 303 to require a National Assessment of Educational Progress in the Arts once every five years, in grades 4, 8, and 12.

Amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, to require the National Center for Education Statistics to collect and disseminate full and complete statistics on the condition and progress of education at the preschool, elementary, secondary, postsecondary, and adult levels in the United States in all core academic subject areas.

Reauthorize the Arts in Education Programs of the U.S. Department of Education

The Arts in Education programs of the U.S. Department of Education identify and support successful models of arts instruction, integration, and professional development, and support the leadership initiatives of VSAarts and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Reauthorize Title V, Part D, Subpart 15 Arts in Education, Sec. 551 Assistance for Arts Education, including findings recognizing the benefits of arts education and improving the dissemination of timely information about the impact and best practices resulting from projects funded through the Arts in Education programs.
