




Mapping the Future of Arts Education



Recommendations for
policy makers, K-12 educators,
higher education, artists,
and citizens, based on the
Status of Arts Education Survey
of Mississippi's K-12 Schools

*The arts – music, dance, theatre,
and visual art – uniquely provide
the physical and mental
challenges; the experience of self-
expression, and the discipline,
joy and excitement of discovery
that are optimal for learning
across any and all subjects.*

~ Laurie Schell, ArtsLink



It's about the Arts...

Did you know?

- Since 1999 Mississippi has required one Carnegie unit in the visual and performing arts for high school graduation.
- There are 22 visual art teachers and 20 music teachers in Mississippi who have obtained National Board Certification.
- Of schools responding to the 2006 Status of Arts Education survey, 81% reported that their district's instruction is aligned with Mississippi's 2003 Visual and Performing Arts Framework.
- 23% of schools participating in the survey reported an increase in the number of students receiving instruction in the visual and performing arts in the 2006-2007 school year.
- School districts in Mississippi seek funding for the visual and performing arts from various sources, including: grant proposals, community resources, school-level discretionary funds, and foundation funds.



The arts are part of a well-rounded, complete education for every student with knowledge and skills that uniquely equip young persons for life. What's more, combining music, art, dance, and drama with subjects such as math, reading and language can be highly effective, enhancing student engagement and increasing academic achievement.

~ Margaret Spellings, U.S. Secretary of Education

Think about this...

Full funding of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) in the 2007-2008 school year will not increase students' access to the arts. While school districts may choose to use some legislative or federal funding to employ certified arts teachers, most arts instruction is funded by taxes assessed and collected in the local community.

Educators know that the goals of the arts – high standards and personal expectations, exacting discipline and creative risk – are needed for success in learning and in life.

~ Janet Eilber,
Principal Arts Consultant, The DANA Foundation

Mississippi's Certified Arts Teachers by Discipline, 2006-2007:

24	Dance Teachers, K-12	191	Theatre Teachers, K-12
388	Visual Art Teachers, K-12	206	Choral Music Teachers 9-12
372	Music Teachers, Elementary	327	Instrumental (Band), 9-12
159	Choral/General, Middle School	314	Instrumental, Middle School

Source: Mississippi Department of Education



It's about Education...

If the people of Mississippi are ever to close the achievement gap, broaden the tax and consumer base, ensure a more highly skilled and employment-ready workforce, attract more investment capital to strengthen the economy, and spark growth, this is not a time for half steps.

~ Southern Education Foundation: *Miles To Go: Mississippi*

State Board of Education Priorities for 2007

1. Obtain full funding of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP).
2. Increase the at-risk allocation for school districts from 5% to 10%. (The Education Trust recommended a 40% at-risk allocation.)
3. Request funding for a statewide pilot pre-kindergarten program.
4. Seek additional funding for high school redesign.

Mississippi Education Reform

Goals:

1. To reach the national average on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.
2. To reduce the dropout rate by 50% in the next five to seven years.

Strategies:

- Increase the rigor of the curriculum and the assessment system.
- Increase the quantity and quality of teachers.
- Increase the quantity and quality of administrators.
- Create a culture in Mississippi that understands the value of education.
- Redesign education for the 21st Century workforce in Mississippi.

~ Dr. Hank Bounds

Mississippi Superintendent of Education



Solving a problem involves first boldly confronting facts and then establishing goals for improvement.

~ Dr. Hank Bounds

Mississippi's Vital Statistics:

897	Public Schools	52.7%	Minority Students
32,591	Public School Teachers	31%	Children in Poverty
493,540	Pre-K-12 Students	13.5%	Students with Disabilities
\$2.9	Billion Annual Pre-K-12 Expenditures	0.6%	English-Language Learners

Source: *Education Week, Quality Counts at 10, Editorial Projects in Education Research Center, State Highlights 2006*

It's about the Future...



Why teach the Arts?

- *The arts transform the environment for learning*
- *The arts reach students in ways that they are not otherwise being reached*
- *The arts connect students to themselves and to one another*
- *The arts provide learning experiences for the adults in the lives of young people*
- *The arts provide new challenges for those students already considered successful*
- *The arts connect learning experiences to the world of work*

Champions of Change:
The Impact of the Arts on Learning

Recommendations for **Policy Makers...**

- Continue to support key policies on standards, assessments, and accountability (Mississippi's 2007 state ranking, #4)
- Recommend and authorize full funding of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program and align education spending to areas of greatest need
- Give priority to the expansion of the pre-kindergarten pilot program with sufficient funding to ensure high quality
- Strengthen dropout prevention policies and programs to increase high school graduation rate
- Continue to seek equity in per pupil spending in all school districts throughout Mississippi
- Support or initiate new programs that reduce large gaps in performance between lower and higher income students
- Strengthen college readiness in middle and high schools
- Work with state institutions of higher learning to increase the number of students who graduate from the state's colleges
- Develop additional programs to make college more affordable for Mississippi's families that lack financial resources for higher education
- Include the arts and humanities in developing a comprehensive workforce-development strategy for K-12 education
- Increase funding and support for the work of the Mississippi Arts Commission, which provides arts funding throughout the state
- Call for proposals or conduct research that will assist school leaders and higher education faculty to assess and plan for the needs of education and arts education in the future
- Host "town meetings" to listen to comments and needs of citizens and educators at the grass roots

Recommendations for Educators...

- Maintain a balanced curriculum under the pressure of increased accountability in reading, mathematics and science
- Strengthen academic achievement for disadvantaged students by integrating successful arts education models like the Whole Schools Initiative into the schools
- Strengthen districts' implementation of the state's existing arts education policies including arts integration
- Place emphasis on the quality of instruction in pre-kindergarten and early grades to ensure student success later on
- Provide certified arts instructors with adequate instructional time, sufficient resources, and designated classroom spaces to optimize student learning through rigorous arts instruction
- Plan and conduct high quality professional development for arts teachers and teachers who integrate the arts
- In a climate of funding limits or cuts, focus energies on increasing arts education through arts integration, interdisciplinary planning and instruction, and differentiated instruction
- Work with statewide professional education and arts education organizations to strengthen professional development for K-12 certified teachers
- Identify and seek alternative funding for arts education to develop, strengthen and expand district programs
- Use the arts as a tool to narrow the achievement gap between ethnic groups and raise achievement levels in high poverty schools
- Train teachers to develop curricula rich in content that includes the arts as a part of a well-rounded education
- Develop professional learning communities at the school and district level that include arts teachers and the arts in ongoing planning for instruction

It's about the Future...

What is Arts Education?

Arts education is engagement with the disciplines of music, dance, theatre, and visual arts as a body of knowledge and skills to be acquired and applied by the student, such as student learning described in the national arts education standards, state arts frameworks, and district arts curricula.



What is Arts Integration?

Arts Integration is instruction that combines essential concepts of the arts (performing, creating, responding) with instruction in other subject disciplines. Students learn essential concepts of the art forms and other disciplines concurrently.

It's about the Future...

What Others Say...

We will be stuck with piecemeal and ineffective reforms until we agree as a nation that education—not only in reading and mathematics, but also science, history, literature, foreign languages and the arts—must be our highest domestic priority.

Diane Ravitch, Brookings Institution



Kids must learn to think across disciplines, since that's where most new breakthroughs are made. It's interdisciplinary combinations—design and technology, mathematics and art—that produce YOUTube and Google.

Thomas Friedman, How to Bring our Schools out of the 20th Century

Recommendations for Higher Education...

- Align higher education degree programs with the state's economic development goals
- Challenge universities and community colleges to strengthen their entrance requirements in the arts and humanities
- Examine teacher education programs to ensure that coursework prepares teacher candidates to integrate the arts into all subjects
- Continue to articulate programs shared between community colleges and four year institutions to ensure readiness for degree programs in all disciplines, including the arts
- Use university "centers of excellence" or establish institutes to build collaborations between higher education and K-12 educators and administrators
- Facilitate collaborations between the campus and local schools to explore partnerships that will serve shared goals
- Adjust traditional course syllabi to incorporate development of interpersonal skills, empathy, design skills, and big-picture thinking for the *conceptual* economy of today
- Convene meetings of campus leaders, representatives from K-12 schools, arts and cultural organizations to provide professional development for the arts teaching workforce
- Offer graduate programs, continuing education, or professional development seminars in the arts and/or interdisciplinary teaching
- Integrate use of the Visual and Performing Arts Framework into undergraduate and graduate education courses
- Integrate goals of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards into undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs

Recommendations for Artists...

- Develop residencies and workshops that enable teachers to make strong connections between the arts and learning in all subjects
- Capitalize on the current need for a creative and innovative workforce and the use of creativity and innovation in creating works of art
- Utilize funding and resources of state agencies and community foundations to bring arts into the school setting
- Enroll in professional development training to learn how the various art forms meet the needs of schools
- Plan workshops that emphasize universal skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, risk-taking, communication, and interpersonal skills which are often learned through the arts
- Communicate the value of careers in the arts using personal experience and vignettes
- Seek opportunities to work with schools over a period of time to deepen the quality of work undertaken with students and faculty
- Develop ways to articulate what students learn in the arts and how work in an art form adds value to their overall education
- Involve schools and student groups in exhibitions or performances in which artists participate
- Participate in high quality professional development that is offered by the Mississippi Arts Commission Whole Schools Initiative and the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education
- Consider traveling to rural areas to expose underserved schools and communities to your art form
- Donate unused or surplus materials and supplies to local schools

It's about the Future...

What Others Say...

Jobs in the new economy—the ones that won't get outsourced or automated—put an enormous premium on creative and innovative skills, seeing patterns where other people see only chaos.

*Marc Tucker,
National Center on Education and the Economy*

The creative skills students develop through participation in the arts strengthen and enhance their preparation for living, learning and working in a changing world.

Susan Sclafani, U. S. Department of Education



It's about the Future...

What Others Say...

The best employers the world over will be looking for the most competent, most creative, and most innovative people on the face of the earth and will be willing to pay them top dollar for their services.

Strong skills in English, mathematics, technology, and science, as well as literature, history and the arts will be essential for many; beyond this, job candidates will have to be good at analysis and synthesis, be creative and innovative, self-disciplined and well-organized, able to learn very quickly and work well as a member of a team and have the flexibility to adapt quickly to frequent changes in the labor market as the shifts in the economy become ever faster and more dramatic.

Tough Choices or Tough Times, National Center on Education and the Economy, January 2007

Education is today, more than ever before, the primary engine for the state's economic growth. Mississippi leaders should use this moment in history, in the aftermath of one of its worst disasters, to turn the state around by rebuilding education.

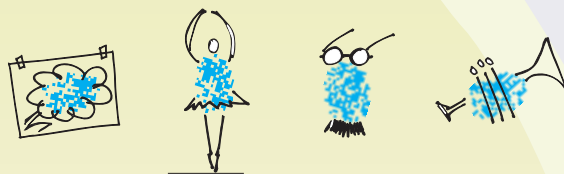
Miles to Go, Mississippi, Southern Education Foundation, Atlanta Georgia, 2006

Recommendations for Citizens...

- Speak to policy makers and school leaders using personal stories to help them understand the value of the arts in education
- Communicate with policy makers and leaders to articulate the links between study of the arts and academic achievement, and how students gain job-related skills
- Articulate ways the arts can be used to teach a variety of academic skills and concepts, and to keep at-risk students engaged in schools
- Become actively involved with schools and school districts to support and expand student access to arts education
- Join and become a volunteer with a local museum or cultural organization to provide arts enrichment in schools within the community
- Learn to write grants and submit proposals to local, regional, state or national funding sites
- Propose conducting *A Community Audit for Arts Education* in your area to assess local needs and available resources to strengthen arts education
- Attend school board meetings and town meetings to become informed or to communicate the need for increased access to arts education
- Invite businesses to "adopt" a school's arts program
- Volunteer to work with a parent support group or fund-raising effort for school arts programs
- Form a citizen's "arts advisory committee" to coordinate and publicize community and school arts events
- Include students and youth as advisors on the boards of local arts organizations
- Emphasize the relationship of strong arts in a community and its schools, economic development, and quality of life

The Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education

Committed to increasing public understanding of the benefits of arts education and providing arts education for students – from their first school day until graduation.



Mission

The mission of the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education is to advocate for high quality, comprehensive and sequential arts education for all Mississippi students.

Beliefs

We believe that...

- the study of the arts is essential to the basic education of all students.
- the arts are challenging subjects with rigorous content and achievement standards that lead students to create, respond to, and perform works of art.
- studying the arts for their own sake, experiencing and making works of art benefits students in their intellectual, personal, and social development.
- learning in and through the arts contributes to the development of cognitive skills and creative capacities that help students achieve academically.
- arts learning promotes development of skills necessary for a lifetime of learning including self-discipline, creative problem-solving, collaboration and teamwork, and critical thinking.
- an education in the arts promotes the development of motivated, discerning, knowledgeable citizens who are contributing members of their communities.

Goals

The goals of the MAAE are to...

- serve as a common source of information and point of interaction concerning arts education among K-12 schools and higher education; community, professional and cultural organizations; state agencies and individuals.
- raise the awareness of arts education issues among the general public.
- generate opportunities for collaboration and to build partnerships among professional arts and education organizations at the state and local level.
- develop programs and services that support arts learning in schools and communities.
- cultivate legislative and institutional relationships that foster development of policies that promote, increase and sustain arts education for all students.
- recognize and celebrate excellence in arts education throughout the state.

To learn more or to become a member:
Go to: www.MSArtsAlliance.com

Lola Norris, Executive Director
101 Carrie Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
E-mail: Lola.Norris@USM.edu

*The Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its funding partners:
The Mississippi Arts Commission, The Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, and the Wallace Foundation*