
“Art is fundamental, unique to each of us... Even in difficult economic times--especially in difficult economic times-the arts are essential.”

Maria Shriver, Award-Winning Journalist and Author
“ARTS EDUCATION AIDS STUDENTS IN SKILLS NEEDED IN THE WORKPLACE: FLEXIBILITY, THE ABILITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AND COMMUNICATE, THE ABILITY TO LEARN NEW SKILLS, TO BE CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE, AND TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE.” – Joseph M. Calahan, Xerox Corporation

According to an independent study, Arts Education Makes a Difference in Missouri Schools, arts education strongly influences student performance and is demonstrated by:

- **Student performance on standardized tests is significantly higher in Missouri districts with higher percentages of students enrolled in arts classes at the elementary, middle and high school levels.** This is especially true for performance in mathematics, both on the MAP and Terra Nova standardized assessments, and in Communication Arts among students in grades 6 through 8.

- **There are fewer disciplinary problems resulting in suspension, expulsions and school removal in Missouri districts with higher percentage of student enrolled in arts classes.** The problems include the possession or use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and weapons, or acts of violence committed on school grounds.

- **Attendance rates are higher in Missouri districts with higher percentages of students enrolled in fine arts courses.**

- **The higher the level of student participation in fine arts course, the higher the district’s graduation rates.**

*(Study conducted by LS Associates, an independent researcher, and made possible by the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education, the Missouri Arts Council, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.)*