

A **BLUEPRINT** FOR CREATIVE SCHOOLS

A Report to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson – 2015

A Blueprint for Creative Schools: A Report to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson by the Arts Education Task Force, is a summary report culminating over two years of work by over 100 contributors, dedicated to making a creative education possible for all of California's students by making the arts a central component of curriculum. The 30-page report can be viewed at <http://www.createca.dreamhosters.com/blueprint/>.

Two overarching themes run throughout the Blueprint:

- Infusing the 4 C's of 21st Century Learning – critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity – into all education policy
- Equity and access are the overriding critical lenses through which to view all policy recommendations

"We have been extremely fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and creative group committed to helping our state rebuild its infrastructure for arts education."

- Tom Torlakson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

The task force grappled with critical issues and made a series of policy recommendations to embed the arts into the fabric of the educational system. This streamlined document, highlighting the task force's important work, is divided into sections that address key themes and critical issues:

Supporting the Arts Curriculum: addressing discipline-specific arts education as well as engaging the power of arts learning across curriculum

- Recommendations include creating a 21st Century model for visual and performing arts standards and curriculum that includes media arts and arts integration as a vital components in a comprehensive arts education, and recognizes culturally and linguistically responsive approaches to instruction

Progress: Revision of the VAPA standards including Media Arts will be completed by Jan. 2019.

Enhancing Educator Quality, Preparation and Professional Learning in the Arts: addressing the continuous improvement of teacher and administrator training programs and requirements, and the inclusion of relevant and current arts content, theory and pedagogy

- Recommendations include restoring dance and theatre single subject credentials, ensuring high quality preparation in the arts in multiple subject credentials, and exploring certification for non-credentialed arts educators.

Progress: The Dance and Theatre single subject credential was restored in 2017.

Producing High-Quality Arts Assessment, Research and Evidence: addressing a rigorous and well-articulated system of school, district, and statewide performance-based assessments within all arts disciplines and cross-curricular formats

- Recommendations include the development of an "arts report card" public reporting system for districts, standards-based learning assessments for students, a centralized digital clearing house for relevant research, and the continued exploration of a creativity index.

Progress: The Arts Education Data Project launched in October 2016. Visit the dashboard on createca.net.



Ensuring Equity and Access: addressing equitable access to high-quality arts education and culturally responsive pedagogy

- Recommendations include developing data collection mechanisms to address and improve gaps in access and to consider equity and access when implementing all policy recommendations.
- Strengthening Collaborative Relationships: addressing the development of cross-sector collaborations to align with 21st century educational goals
- Recommendations include developing a California collaborative toolkit and communications network for those seeking to build education partnerships at the school, district, county and state levels.

Progress: *The Declaration of Student Rights to Equity in Arts Learning launched in March 2017 along with a template for school board adoption. Go to www.createca.net/home/declaration-of-student-rights/*

Strengthening Collaborative Relationships: addressing the development of cross-sector collaborations to align with 21st century educational goals

- Recommendations include developing a California collaborative toolkit and communications network for those seeking to build education partnerships at the school, district, county and state levels.

Expanding the Role of Business and Industry in the Creative Workforce: addressing the talent pipeline for business and industry in California

- Recommendations include the creation of a Education and Business Council to focus on creating opportunities for students to gain the skills needed for business of the 21st Century.

Progress: *Leadership Development strategies underway with a cohort of arts education leaders.*

Providing Funding for the Arts: addressing the inclusion of arts education in districts' Local Control Funding Formula and Local Control Accountability Plans

- Recommends specific ways that arts education addresses the goals of LCFF.