



The California Arts Education Data Project Model Newsletter Article

All students in California deserve to have access to high quality arts education that will provide them with important skills they need to succeed in today's competitive workforce. The Arts Education Data Project has been providing valuable information on where (and how) arts education is offered and any improvement across the state.

On March 19th, Create CA, in partnership with the California Department of Education and the Arts Education Data Project, released two more years of data allowing districts to track their progress over the last four years.

Designed to help increase participation in arts education across California, *California Arts Education Data Project* analyzes and reports school-level data on arts education courses and middle and high school enrollment across the state. It is designed to enable leaders at the state, district and school level – as well as parents and advocates – to identify and address education inequities across the state.

Presented in a user-friendly, color-coded dashboard, the Project provides important information to education leaders, teachers and parents about levels of access to and enrollment in arts programming in schools. The dashboard allows users to review school-level, district, county and statewide data and presents the statewide averages as the baseline for comparison. It reports data from 2013–2014 through the most current year from 3,719 schools, covering more than three million students from grades 6 through 12, which is roughly half of California's student population.

A few of the [research findings](#) from the new data release include:

- Between 2013-2014 and 2016-2017, there was a 26% percent decline in the number of students without access to any arts instruction.
- Although over 97 percent of students have access to some level of arts education, 25 percent of students have access to all four arts disciplines of dance, music, theatre and visual art as required by the state education code. Also, 87 percent of schools provide at least one arts discipline, but only 12 percent of schools offer the four required arts disciplines.
- In total, the percent of students enrolled in at least one arts discipline increased from 38% to 39%. Further disparities exist by discipline, with 17 percent of students enrolled in art, 14 percent in music, 6 percent in arts, media and entertainment, 4 percent in theatre and 2 percent in dance.
- The greater the percentage of students on free and reduced lunch, the lower the arts participation rate. However, the percentage of students participating from the most economically disadvantaged schools increased from 34% to 36%.

The Data Project also features [a roadmap for school districts](#) that guides leaders through the process of examining their data to better understand their unique circumstances and challenges. The roadmap contains resources and helpful guides to assist districts in assessing their programs and creating strategic

arts plans. The Data Project also provides a communication toolkit that includes materials to share these resources with local stakeholders.

We all know that quality arts education sparks creative thinking, and helps set up students for success in college, career and life. These important tools provide a complete picture of where California's schools currently stand, allowing leaders to ensure their schools can provide invaluable arts education to every child in California.

For more information, contact Patricia Wayne at pwayne@createca.net.