

Recommendations for Arts Education
“Five Strategic Recommendations for Maximizing Opportunity”

“What is Arts Education?”

Arts Education in California schools encompasses the four distinct arts disciplines of dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. Each of the art disciplines contains a distinct body of academic content knowledge, processes, and skills that expands students’ perceptual, intellectual, communication, cultural and visioning dimensions.

Arts Education provides an insight on how people communicate their perceptions, responses and understanding of the world to themselves and to others. It is a window into the continually evolving exhibition of the individuals to intuit, symbolize, think and express themselves. Arts Education enhances and balances the school curriculum, develops discipline specific skills, and promotes cognitive development.

Study of one or more of the arts disciplines has many benefits throughout life regardless if a person engages in art-making on a regular basis. Some of the benefits for students from a sequential standards-based arts education include the increased capacity to create and express, appreciate the arts and other cultures’ forms of expression, see relationships between the arts and their daily lives, and to investigate how arts create meaning while developing aesthetic perceptions.

SOURCE: Visual and Performing Arts Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2004. CDE Press