



PRESS RELEASE

March 25, 2014

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AEP Releases ArtScan 2014: What State Policies Say About Arts Education in America

(Washington, DC) The [Arts Education Partnership](http://www.aep-arts.org) (AEP) of the [Council of Chief State School Officers](http://www.ccsso.org) (CCSSO) has released the 2014 Edition of *ArtScan* – a 50-state clearinghouse of education polices that shape arts education instruction and opportunities for more than 50 million students in public elementary and secondary schools across the United States.

The revised and expanded 2014 edition of [ArtScan](http://www.aep-arts.org), located on the AEP website (www.aep-arts.org), is an easy-to-use and searchable database providing up to the minute information across 14 policy areas related to K-12 arts education. AEP developed ArtScan and a new research and policy brief, [A Snapshot of State Polices on Arts Education](#), to bring transparency and clarity about state policies for arts education in America.

These two resources combined provide a comprehensive picture of arts education at the state level and answer questions like: What are a state’s instructional requirements for the arts? How many states require course credits in the arts for high school graduation? Which states specify that districts assess student learning and growth in the arts?

“The findings reveal a strong public policy consensus across states that the arts contribute to a quality K-12 education. However, we also see a ‘policy paradox’ in many states, where there are robust policies for arts education at the state level but uneven implementation at the local level. This is evidenced by the growing number of students without access to a high quality arts education, many of whom attend high poverty schools. We must do more to close this opportunity gap,” says Sandra Ruppert, AEP director.

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While federal education law defines the arts as a core academic subject, states hold ultimate authority in determining education policy, including requirements for arts education standards, instruction, assessment, accountability, and teacher certification. Defining the arts as a “core” or “academic” subject in state policy puts the arts on equal footing with other core subjects for support and assistance. ArtScan identifies 27 states that define the arts in this manner in state statute or administrative code.

"Effective state policies for arts education can help move our country toward ensuring all students leave high school ready for college and careers. I see ArtScan as a powerful resource for state education leaders across the country critical to helping them shape a high quality and equitable education system," says Chris Minnich, CCSSO executive director.

Features in the 2014 Edition of ArtScan include:

- Comprehensive database of state arts education policies from all 50 states and the District of Columbia including the language excerpted directly from statute and administrative code.
- Links to surveys on the status and condition of arts education in a particular state. As of March 2014, this information is available for 24 states.
- A set of descriptive K-12 education indicators for each state drawn from data compiled annually by the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, including total enrollment, high school graduation rate, and average per pupil expenditures.

Visit ArtScan and download a copy of the policy brief at www.aep-arts.org.

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About the Arts Education Partnership

The Arts Education Partnership, a part of the Council of Chief State School Officers, is a national network of organizations dedicated to advancing the arts in education through research, policy, and practice.

Established in 1995 through a unique interagency agreement between the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Education, AEP aspires to ensure that every student in America succeeds in school, work, and life as a result of a high quality education in and through the arts.