



2016 Nation's Arts Report Card: What You Can Do

The 2016 Nation's Arts Report Card is a reaffirmation that the arts are essential to a complete education and that learning in the arts is rigorous and measurable. The release of the report can help prompt an important public dialogue regarding the status of arts education in the nation's schools. The data outlined in the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in the Arts bolsters the case for creating, maintaining and expanding access to arts education for all students. Here are some actions you can take to promote the results:

Draw Public Attention to the Report

- Use the NAEP results release to prompt a public conversation about the status of arts education at the state and local level. Issue a press release about the assessment results, vividly describing the [research-backed benefits of arts education](#) and making the case to improve the status of arts education.
- Ask a board president, artist, educator, parent or business leader to sign and submit a letter-to-the editor that puts the national test results into a context addressing the status of arts education in your community.

Collaborate With In-School Arts Educators

- Share the results of the 2016 Nation's Arts Report Card and strategize with teachers, curriculum specialists and parents to send a clear, consistent message to local decision makers. In-school arts educators can help to describe the funding and resources needed to fully support access to arts education

Ask Decision Makers to Increase Access to Arts Education

- Meet with local and state education policymakers, including principals, superintendents and school board members to discuss how much arts education is offered and how learning in the arts is being measured.
- Use the release of the NAEP as a timely opportunity to engage in local- and state-level conversations about implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). See the Arts Education Partnership's [ESSA: Mapping Opportunities for the Arts](#) guide for more information.

Identify New Partners in Promoting Arts Education

- Remember that universities, business owners, parents, before- and after-school community centers and child-care providers are important stakeholders in providing students with quality education.
 - Meet with local artists and social service organizations to explore and create new partnerships that can advance arts education.
 - Identify jobs in your community that require knowledge of or skills in the arts. Share this analysis with your school board.
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