Join the Program at the 2019 AEP Annual Convening

AEP invites partner organizations and leaders in the field to share their exemplary work supporting the role and contribution of the arts in preparing all students for success in school, work and life. Submit a concurrent session proposal today for our premier annual event, taking place Sept. 11-12 in Alexandria, Va. Proposal Deadline: 5 p.m. PDT Friday, May 10.

New Blog Post: Your Guide to Navigating Opportunities for the Arts Under ESSA

ESSA and the arts. Where to start? Where to go? This new post on Education Commission of the States' Ed Note blog shows how a comprehensive report from AEP can help you navigate opportunities for the arts in education under this federal law.

Education Commission of the States Named as 1 of the Top 50 Best Nonprofits to Work For

For the third consecutive year, Education Commission of the States was named one of The Nonprofit Times’ 2019 Best Nonprofits to Work For. The list of Best Nonprofits to Work For is put together annually from information collected by the Best Companies Group, and Education Commission of the States’ staff completed an Employee Engagement and Satisfaction Survey.

Utah Residency Program Integrates Dance Into Elementary School Curricula
A recent Art Works blog post from the National Endowment for the Arts explores how Side-by-Side — a program from Tanner Dance at the University of Utah — engages students in learning across subjects through dance concepts. The program offers residencies to schools throughout the year, including remote residencies for rural schools. Side-by-Side uses dance methods to support memory development in students and provides them with opportunities to build self-confidence and community with their peers.

NAMM Foundation Recognizes 623 School Districts for Their Music Education Efforts

The districts — from across 41 states — received the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for their contributions to and support of music education as part of their schools’ core curricula. School districts underwent an evaluation of their efforts, including commitment to standards and staffing of highly qualified educators.

Related AEP Resource: Music Matters

Call for Nominations: 2019 NDEO National Awards

The National Dance Education Organization is accepting nominations of individuals for awards recognizing contributions and service to the dance education field. This year’s awards will honor an educator in pre-K through 12th grade and a dance education researcher, among other recipients. Deadline to submit nominations: April 12.

A Look at How West Virginia Supports the Arts in Education

Through arts education programs — including those sponsored at the state level — youths in West Virginia have access to opportunities to engage in activities across arts disciplines. In addition to the Poetry Out Loud competition and an annual dance festival, the state also sponsors multiple student art competitions and has formed a partnership with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Clay Center to bring STEAM education to more schools.

New Hampshire to Update Its Arts Education Standards

The state is now accepting public input as it begins the process of revising its standards for dance, media arts, music, theatre and visual arts in public schools. Currently, many schools in the state use the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards in place of the state’s standards or in conjunction with, and districts have the ability to design their own curriculum.

Colorado Nonprofit Seeks to Open Arts-Focused Charter School

Following a successful summer pilot, Visions Performing Arts College Prep has submitted an application to create a charter school focused on African American and Latino arts. The school would provide a variety of arts classes to middle school students and would require high school students to select a focus from audio engineering, cosmetology, dance or theatre.

Related AEP Resources: The Arts and School Choice
Students participating in out-of-school arts organizations showed a dramatic increase in using complex language, including syntactic complexity, hypothetical reasoning and questioning approaches.

More

#ArtsEdSearch: Students participating in out-of-school arts organizations showed dramatic increase in using complex language, hypothetical reasoning & questioning. bit.ly/2TLkDjv #ArtsEd

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More

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**ArtScan**

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have content or performance standards for any or all disciplines of arts education.

Explore arts education policies in your state using ArtScan.

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**Featured Resource**

*Governors’ Top Education Priorities in 2019 State of the State Addresses*

This [signature product](#) from Education Commission of the States outlines the six education priorities identified by governors across the states in 2019, as well as state highlights for each priority area.
AEP’s efforts to communicate, collaborate, convene and connect policymakers, stakeholders and leaders across the arts in education field are supported by the following foundation partners: The Hewlett Foundation and The Wallace Foundation.

**Have news to share?**

Please submit a 100 word summary to cquillen@ecs.org.

**Connect with our partners online!**

Stay current on all of the arts education news from our partner organizations by subscribing to the AEP Partners Twitter list! You can also visit the member section of this list and follow all of our partners. If you are a member of AEP and don’t see your Twitter handle listed or if you have news to share on the AEP Twitter handle, please contact Cassandra Quillen at cquillen@ecs.org.