



ARTS IN EDUCATION

everychild.onevoice.

FLORIDA PTA POSITION

Florida PTA recommends every school district place greater emphasis on arts education and increase opportunities for student participation in the arts incorporating the Florida Sunshine Standard approved by the State Board of Education. Florida PTA urges that unless a teacher has specialized skills in the arts or is a recognized professional in their arts specialty, the arts be taught by teachers certified in their specific arts subject area and aligned with the National Standards (No Child Left Behind) and the Sunshine State Standards, and that the State Legislature include and fully fund Arts instruction without cutting funding from existing programs as part of the PreK-12 curriculum at all schools.

National PTA Position

National PTA believes that the arts, music, literature, dance, drama, and visual arts are central to learning. Infusion of the arts in elementary, secondary, and continuing education curricula is key to the development of students. National PTA supports: 1. Programs that promote public awareness of the arts and arts education. 2. The integration of the arts in school curriculum.

Background

In recent years, budget cuts, overcrowding, and accountability requirements have endangered the teaching of the arts. Many schools have cut back severely on these programs and still others are offering them on a limited basis. It is a well documented fact that arts have a significant role in education both for their intrinsic value and for the ways in which they can enhance general academic achievement and improve students' social and emotional development. For many students it is the path to their future success. Arts provide every child with the ability to exercise their imagination, creativity and expand their horizons on a global scale.



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Talking Points

- The arts are a core academic subject under the No Child Left behind Act (NCLB)
- A comprehensive arts education encompasses many subject areas and contributes to overall academic achievement.
- Studies have shown that arts teaching and learning can increase students' cognitive and social development.
- Based on a review of data from the National Educational Longitudinal Study, University of California-Los Angeles researchers determined that students who were highly involved in arts instruction earned better grades and performed better on standardized tests.
- They also performed more community service, watched fewer hours of television, reported less boredom in school, and were less likely to drop out of school.

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