



NAEA

Advancing Art Education

March 24, 2015

Dear Member of Congress,

The National Art Education Association is pleased to be a National Co-sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2015. The National Art Education Association (NAEA) advances visual arts education to fulfill human potential and promote global understanding. Founded in 1947, The National Art Education Association is the leading professional membership organization exclusively for visual arts educators. Members include elementary, middle and high school visual arts educators, college and university professors, researchers and scholars, teaching artists, administrators and supervisors, art museum educators and university students preparing to be art educators.

NAEA promotes art education through professional development, service, advancement of research, knowledge, and leadership. In order to fulfill this mission, NAEA provides expertise, training, and resources that support professional growth and leadership, helping members affect the quality of student learning in their local schools, communities, and states. The Association believes that all students deserve a comprehensive, balanced and sequential program of instruction in the visual arts. Further, the Association believes that the art curriculum should be led and taught by teachers who are certified and qualified in the visual arts and designed to provide students with skills and knowledge in the arts in accordance with national, state and local standards.

On behalf of the nation's 90,000 professional visual arts educators, the National Art Education Association offers the following recommendations:

- Appropriate \$30 million for the Arts in Education programs in the FY2015 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, authorized under the current Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- In the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):
Retain the definition of core academic subjects including the arts and strengthen equitable access to arts learning through the following actions:
 - Require states to report annually on student access to, and participation in all core academic subjects.
 - Strengthen arts education in provisions relating to early childhood education, Title I, student with disabilities, teaching effectiveness, school turnaround, charter schools, national data collection, and student assessment.
 - Retain the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which supports afterschool, out-of-school programs and expanded learning time in schools.
 - Improve the U.S. Department of Education's national data collection regarding what students know and are able to do in the arts and the conditions for teaching and learning in arts education.
- Maintain arts education grant support at the U.S. Department of Education:
Administer a direct, nationally funded competitive program that ensures dedicated resources to support large-scale model arts education projects that improve teaching in the arts, are inclusive, and leverage the power of the arts to support comprehensive school reform.

Thank you for your interest and thoughtful consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,



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