



Deborah B. Reeve, EdD | Executive Director

March 5, 2019

Dear Member of Congress,

The National Art Education Association is pleased to be a National Partner of Arts Advocacy Day 2019. 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 an increase in funding to greater than \$30 million for the Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) programs in the FY 2020 Labor-HHS- Education appropriations bill. The Assistance for Arts Education programs are authorized under Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Fully implement the Well-Rounded Education provisions of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) by including the arts and strengthen equitable access to arts learning by:
  - Fully funding (\$1.6 billion) the Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants under Title IV, Part A.
  - Making explicit the opportunity for the arts to help achieve Title I objectives.
  - Thoroughly implementing the professional development opportunities for arts educators and school leaders in Title II and the expanded STEM program eligibility for the arts in Title IV, Part A.
  - Fully funding (\$1.1 billion) the 21st Century Community Learning Centers after-school program.
  - Providing at least \$4 million to the Institute of Education Sciences for the decennial administration of the Fast Response Survey in Arts Education (FRSS) study.
- Strengthen access to higher education in the arts through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act:
  - We support the Public Service Loan Forgiveness programs.
  - We support continuation of financial aid that encourages students to study the disciplines where they have the most interest and talent. There are significant misperceptions about careers in the arts providing less financial compensation and employment tied to the skills developed in these majors (see the SNAAP reports of arts alumni at <http://snaap.indiana.edu/snaapshot/#debt>). The cost of providing a college degree in the arts, as described by SNAAP reporting, is particularly sensitive to increasing costs. This is due to the teaching-intensive curricula, low student-teacher ratios, and the added costs of materials and equipment.
  - Ensure for-profit colleges, a substantial number of which offer arts degrees, are properly monitored to reduce their incentive to maximize profits over student success.
- Continue bipartisan support with a budget of \$167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill in order to preserve access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States. The NEA funds school- and community-based programs that help children and youth acquire knowledge and skills in the arts and supports educational programs for adults and partnerships between arts institutions and K-12 and college/university educators. Thank you for your interest and thoughtful consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Kim Huyler Defibaugh, NAEA President  
Arts and Education Consultant

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