

# College, Career & Military Preparation

## Arts Education Is Essential

**All Texas students deserve a well-rounded education that includes the arts.** Fine arts courses provide students a safe place to **express themselves, take risks, and collaborate** with others. Students in arts courses develop essential characteristics for a successful future:

- **Confidence**
  - **Effective communication**
  - **Analytical reasoning**
- **Problem-solving**
  - **Creativity**
  - **Accountability**
- **Perseverance**
  - **Ingenuity**
  - **Flexibility and adaptability**



**Arts education is not a frill;** it is beneficial to every student. The arts help teachers reach students across a broad spectrum of learning styles and raise achievement in at-risk students, young children, underserved populations, and students with disabilities.

—Gaston Caperton, College Board President (1999–2012)



### Other States Use Arts As a Measure of School Quality

Five states already include the arts in their accountability systems, and others are considering adding similar measures. —*Education Week* (March 7, 2017)



Texas leads the nation in arts education, and how we examine school quality should reflect our commitment to offer all students a well-rounded education.

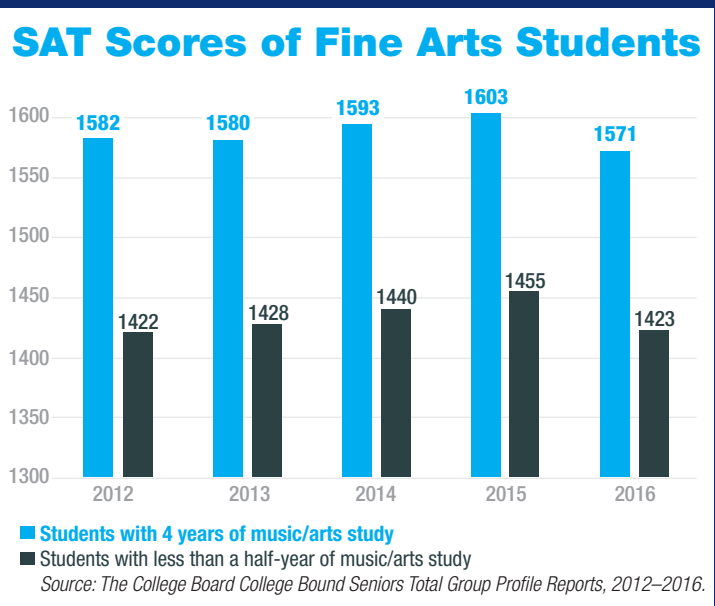
*The arts are a response to our individuality and our nature and help to shape our identity. The arts are not a frill and should not be treated as such. They have the potential to become the driving force for healing division and divisiveness.*

— Former Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan —

The College Board reports that **students with four years of music/arts study score 10–12% higher on the SAT than others.**

Texas schools with more students in music classes have:

- **better academic ratings**
- **fewer discipline problems**
- **higher attendance rates**



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## Impact of the Arts



Art and culture industries generate **\$6 billion** to the Texas economy and contribute nearly **\$380 million** in state sales tax revenue.



Our state's creative sector employs **1 in 15** Texans—nearly 845,000 individuals in creative careers.



In 2022, fine arts secondary courses in Texas schools had enrollments of over **1.8 million**.

Sources: Texas Cultural Trust and TEA PEIMS data.

**School districts should be recognized and rewarded for providing meaningful learning opportunities in the arts.**



## Texas Leads the Nation

The late Sir Ken Robinson, internationally acclaimed education policy authority and arts advocate, devoted several pages in his book *Creative Schools* (2016) to praising the Texas House Public Education Committee and Texas Legislature for leading the way to personalized strategies that take into account the different talents of students. He acknowledged the need for new paths to graduation for high school students who have many different goals for their futures.

**The keys to the kingdom are changing hands . . . we need to make sure we are preparing our kids for their future and not our past. Arts education is not ornamental but fundamental for economic reasons.**

—Dan Pink, author of *A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future*

## Arts Education Offers What Texans Value

Over 90% of Texans rate the following skills as essential or highly desirable. Students who participate in a rigorous and sequential arts education, develop these very skills:

- *Critical thinking and problem solving skills*
- *Preparation to succeed in the workforce*
- *Self-management*
- *Interpersonal skills*
- *Decision-making skills*

Source: Connected Through Our Schools (2022) Charles Butt Foundation Public Opinion Poll Report

**91%** of Americans agree that the arts are part of a well-rounded K–12 education. Over 90% say students should receive an education in the arts in elementary school, middle school, and high school.

Source: Americans Speak Out About the Arts (2018). Public opinion survey, Americans for the Arts