



July 26, 2019

HOW TO SUPPORT THE ARTS THIS BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON

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Kick off your school year supporting the arts! Show the parents and students at your school that you value arts education by following these three simple steps:

- **Host an arts night.** An arts night is a wonderful way to kick off your Reflections program and to get families excited about the arts. Have a photo scavenger hunt on campus, invite a local dance team to do a short performance and teach you a dance, or make a creation station full of art supplies for families to use. This is an easy family engagement night with a ton of impact!
- **Share the VAPA Guide.** Share the [Parents Guide to Visual and Performing Arts in California Public Schools](#) with the families in your school. Help parents to understand arts education is a core part of education (as evidenced by its inclusion in the Education code) and not an extra that is optional. Post the guide on your social media, have a brief parent education explanation at a school meeting, and share it with your school board.
- **Use the Arts Education Data Project.** Did you know that you can see what arts classes are offered in your local middle and high schools? Or that you can compare your arts offerings to other districts across the state? The [Arts Education Data Project](#) is a highly interactive tool that can help you see the gaps as well as the strengths of the arts in your community.



Don't forget that Arts in Education Week is **September 8-14, 2019!** This is a great time to kick-start your arts programs and events in your school community.

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