



September 12, 2019

## ARTS EDUCATION SHOULD NOT BE OPTIONAL

*Para leer en español, [clic aquí](#).*

Every student has the right to a dynamic, creative education, and the California Education Code requires it. Yet 88% of California schools are failing to meet this standard.

This. Must. Change.

That's why California State PTA has joined forces with [Create CA](#) to launch one of the most impactful public will campaigns for the arts in recent history demanding arts education for all students.

Simply put – **arts education should not be optional.**

To take part in the public will campaign, sign up at [www.createca.org](http://www.createca.org).



## NEW ARTS EDUCATION DATA HAS BEEN RELEASED

All students in California deserve the opportunity to enroll in high quality arts education curriculum that will provide them with the important skills they need to succeed in today's competitive workforce. Prior to 2016, we lacked the tools to show us where (and how) arts education is offered across the state. That's why Create CA, the California Department of Education and the Arts Education Data Project have joined together to provide a new suite of tools to help increase participation and ensure student success in arts education.

The Arts Chair for California State PTA, Erin Jenks, looked at the data for her local school district and wrote a blog post here: [www.capta.org/new-arts-education-data-released](http://www.capta.org/new-arts-education-data-released).

Here's how you can help with the movement:

1. **Look at your data.** This [video from Create CA](#) will explain how to examine your data. [Access the data here](#)
2. **Work together.** Take the information you gathered from the data to your PTA and work on a strategy for ways to improve access to the arts at your school or in your school district
3. **Make your ask.** Speak to your principal, school board, or superintendent. Go to your LCAP meetings. Share your findings with them and ask for increased access to the arts for all students
4. **Offer solutions.** Don't threaten, but offer suggestions and solutions. Ask the district to re-examine their Visual and Performing Arts Plan (VAPA Plan) and include parents in the review. Offer to speak to neighboring districts about their areas of success to see if that is something your district can duplicate

5. **Use our resources.** CreateCA and California State PTA both have resources for you to use. Familiarize yourself not only with the Data Plan, but the [Parents' Guide to the Visual and Performing Arts in California Public Schools](#)
6. **Follow, share and persist.** Follow Create CA and California State PTA on social media. Share arts information on your website or social media and keep the parents at your school informed

We hope that you will look at the data for your local school district and share your thoughts with us at [arts@capta.org](mailto:arts@capta.org).



## NATIONAL PTA KICKS OFF ARTS IN EDUCATION WEEK WITH REFLECTIONS

In celebration of [National Arts in Education Week](#), National PTA is kicking off its [2019-2020 Reflections student art awards program](#). Through the program, students of all ages are encouraged to create original works of arts in the areas of special artist, dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts reflecting on the theme "Look Within." Submissions will be reviewed by visual, literary and performing arts experts, and students will be recognized for their talents and creativity in bringing the theme to life.

*"National PTA is thrilled to celebrate National Arts in Education Week with the launch of our 2019-2020 Reflections program, which provides all students the opportunity to participate in the arts," said Leslie Boggs, president of National PTA. "Involvement in the arts is critical to help students reach their full potential in the classroom and beyond, as it builds a student's confidence, teamwork and sense of accomplishment. It also helps with academic achievement, social and emotional development, and civic engagement."*

[Read more from National PTA here.](#)

## TAKE OUR ONE-QUESTION ARTS EDUCATION SURVEY:

Help the California State PTA arts education advocates by taking a quick, one-question survey. **What was your favorite art activity when you were in school?**

- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Creative writing
- Dance
- Other

Answer the question by clicking the button below.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)