

# SMARTS

Bring back the arts! To our schools. To our children.

California State PTA Newsletter

January 2018

**SMARTS**, Parents for the Arts Network is California State PTA's program to encourage arts education.

Please spread the word about the benefits of arts education for all of California's K-12 students.

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

## Arts Advocacy in Every Season

The [Local Control Funding Formula \(LCFF\)](#) is a huge opportunity for parents to shape the vision of their children's education and make it happen.

The LCFF requires school districts to involve parents in planning and decision-making, as well as in developing Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs). Parents know that the arts are crucial to a well-rounded education, and the LCFF gives you the opportunity to share that fact.

California State PTA has great resources for parents, schools and PTAs, including a [helpful flier](#) outlining questions parents can ask during this season – and throughout the year – to ensure our voices are included when schools are making important decisions. These resources help you speak up for the arts all year long!



## How the Arts Prepare Students for the Future

Arts education helps prepare students for the expectations of the 21st century workforce, which includes the ability to innovate, communicate, solve problems and collaborate. California State PTA shares six ways the arts prepare today's students for success in life from an article by *The Washington Post*:

1. The arts don't focus on right and wrong
2. The arts are inherently creative
3. Arts education emphasizes practice
4. Arts education focuses on feedback and critique
5. The arts provide a moment of success
6. Arts education helps teach kids to handle stress.



Read the [full article from The Washington Post here](#).

## Proof that Arts Education Matters

For more than a century, PTA has advocated for quality [arts education for every child](#). Share these facts to help make the case for arts education in your school and district:



- Students who participate in arts programs are three times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, elected to class office within their schools, participate in a math and science fair, win an award for school attendance and win an award for writing an essay or poem
- Third-grade art students who participated in the Guggenheim Learning Through Art Program performed better in six categories of literacy and critical thinking skills – including thorough description, hypothesizing and reasoning – than students who were not in the program
- Numerous studies affirm that students who receive music education in school improve their SAT and ACT scores in math, foreign language and creative writing
- In California, 500,000 fewer school children are taking music education now than five years ago.

Be sure to share your favorite arts-education facts with us so we can share them, too! Send them to [arts@capta.org](mailto:arts@capta.org) to spread the word.

## News and Resources in Your Inbox

Our *SMARTS Parents for the Arts* newsletter is just one of the many ways California State PTA helps keeps parents, educators and community members informed and engaged on issues affecting our children.



You're already a *SMARTS* subscriber, but did you know that California State PTA has many other online newsletters? We have resources for health and safety, advocacy and education issues – many of them translated into Spanish. There is something for everyone to stay involved and informed. Learn more about the issues that matter most to you by subscribing to our other [free email updates](#). Spread the word!

*This message is being sent to the SMARTS Parents for the Arts Network as well as unit, council and district PTA presidents. Please feel free to forward this message to your members and other interested parties.*

