

SMARTS

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

California State PTA Newsletter

May 2017

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](#).

The Family Arts Experience was a resounding success

Families from all over the state took part in an evening training and arts event at the 2017 California State PTA Annual Convention. Participants heard from experts in brain development and how the arts impact learning, completed hands-on arts activities that help bring families together and took home a " [Program-in-a-Box](#)" art kit to host their own Family Arts Experience in their community.

More than 250 arts kits were distributed to PTA Leaders, impacting more than 90,000 students in California. The Special Committee for Arts Education and the School Smarts Committee teamed up with the Hewlett Foundation to bring these resources to our PTA leaders in San Jose.



And we want to bring it to you! Look for more arts kits at Regional Trainings and [follow the link](#) to see everything that was included to use at your school site. Send pictures of your own family-arts experiences to arts@capta.org for us to share.

Arts-education advocacy in action

California State PTA supports arts-education, and this legislative session, we've taken positions on many bills before the California State Legislature related to the arts in K-12 curriculum:

- **SUPPORT: [AB 37 \(O'Donnell\)](#)** – This bill would add media arts to the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) standards
- **SUPPORT: [AB 385 \(Chu\)](#)** – This bill would encourage school districts to include what arts are being offered in grades 1-6. Currently, school district are only required to collect 6-12 arts data
- **SUPPORT: [SB 777 \(Allen\)](#)** – This bill would require to State Department of Education to establish professional development and trainings for the visual and performing arts
- **SUPPORT: [SCR 24 \(Fuller\)](#)** – The Resolution declared March 2017 as Arts Education Month.



If you would like to learn more about California State PTA's positions on bills, please check out our website: <http://capta.org/advocacy>.

Equity in arts-education

California State PTA recently adopted the Declaration of the Rights of All Students to Equity in Arts Learning to reaffirm its commitment to a full curriculum that includes the arts. [View the declaration](#) and share it with your school community.

“Parents know, the arts matter. Arts learning is an essential part of a comprehensive education for all students,” said California State PTA President Justine Fischer. “And California State PTA will continue our work to make sure the vital voice of parents is heard — loud and clear — in support of the arts.”

Don't forget: You can be a champion for the arts in your school

It's easy! Just [download the flier](#) to learn more. You'll find helpful tips for getting started, suggested activities and links to additional resources.

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.

