

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Board of Education Executive Summary

Academic Office:

Arts Education Update

May 17, 2018



I. Overview of Arts Education

Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) recognizes that high quality Arts Education is essential to advancing SCUSD's Equity Access and Social Justice Guiding Principle that all students are given an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary arts aides the development of the whole child and contribute significantly to raising student achievement, providing students with a relevant, rigorous and well-rounded education. It is widely known that effective Arts instruction is crucial to building skills needed in the 21st century workforce such as creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving and communication. As such, SCUSD is committed to ensuring access to the arts for all students.

These classes are offered in SCUSD's middle and high schools and provide students

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II. Driving Governance

In recent years, schools across the United States have substantially reduced Arts programs in response to budget concerns and pressures to improve academic test scores. However, a substantial body of research demonstrates that the various forms of Arts Education including Arts integration, Arts enhancement, and Curricular Arts, can be an asset to districts and schools in achieving educational goals. Stanford Professor Elliot Eisner, argues that a curriculum that includes music, dance, and art is essential in developing critical thinking skills because the arts teach children to make good judgments, to celebrate multiple perspectives, and that problems can have more than one solution. Similarly, Harvard's Project Zero found that through engaging in the Arts, students learn to persist at solving problems, developing craft, reaching beyond one's capacities, and how to embrace the opportunity to learn from mistakes.

Building these competencies are also a focus of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which the district has been in the process of implementing over the past four years as a primary vehicle for actualizing the goals of college and career readiness. Thus, the Arts are a key lever in the district's implementation of the math and ELA/ELD Common Core State standards and will contribute greatly to student success in achieving the vision inherent within the standards. The Arts support the implementation of the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice, the Common Core English language Arts (ELA) Standards, the new California ELD Standards as well as provide students with meaningful content and contexts for the deep analytical thinking and reasoning called for in these standards.

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Unified School District at no cost to the District.

In July 2018, CLARA will have completed its second full year of program operations, and provided over 3,600 SCUSD students with arts outreach programming and providing a home for seven arts and cultural organizations. CLARA tenants include Alliance Française de Sacramento, the Brazilian Center for Cultural Exchange of Sacramento, Capital Stage, McKeever School of Irish Dance, Sacramento Preparatory Music Academy, Sacramento Ballet, and Southside Unlimited. This diverse collection of arts organizations allows CLARA to provide District students with access and exposure to a broad spectrum of arts disciplines. Outreach programs include in-school artist residencies, performing arts assemblies, scholarships for at-CLARA classes, work-based-learning internship opportunities, a two-week performing arts summer camp and free tickets to live performances.

During the 2017-2018 school year, CLARA provided 1,750 SCUSD students with deep-impact, high-quality arts education programming totaling over 6,500 hours of instruction. All programming is aligned to CCSS, VAPA and NCAS standards. Schools served include Hollywood Park, William Land, Elder Creek, Will C. Wood, Luther Burbank, and West Campus.

o Any Given Child

In 2009, Mayor Kevin Johnson partnered with Michael Kaiser of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Sacramento became the first **Any Given Child** City in the nation. The primary goal of the Kennedy Center's **Any Given Child** program is to assist communities in developing a plan for expanded arts education in their schools ensuring equity and access for all students in grades K-8. For the 2017-18 school year in SCUSD, this continuing partnership has brought Kennedy Center professional learning opportunities to 50 teachers, offered 30 Arts exposure experiences to schools, and provided 21 theme based Artist Residencies. During the Artist Residencies, artists and teachers collaborate to provide students a series of classes that address agreed upon curriculum standards in the artist's discipline and in another subject area.

o Link Up

In partnership with the Carnegie Hall's **Link Up** national program and the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra, teachers in SCUSD and other area school districts, participate in professional learning designed to teach recorders to third through sixth grade students using the Carnegie Hall Curriculum. The **Link Up** program provides recorders and music books for students and a teacher guide along with interactive online learning resources for the classroom. Throughout the learning process, members of the Sacramento

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Philharmonic are available for school visits to share with students what it is like to be a professional musician and to be a part of an orchestra. During the 17-18 school year, 1030 students from seven schools, William Land, Leonardo Da Vinci, Father Keith B. Kenny, Peter Burnett, Crocker Riverside, A.M. Winn, and Elder Creek, learned pieces of music that they performed along with the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra. The 2017-18 Link Up: "The Orchestra Moves" culminating concert was held in April at the Community Center Theatre which involved nearly 5000 students and teachers from the Sacramento region.

o Overture

Overture is a collaboration with Sacramento Youth Symphony, the Sacramento State String Project and SCUSD. It is designed to empower students and their families through music. Inspired by the El Sistema movement from Venezuela, **Overture** is a program of social change through music. As students become citizens of the orchestra, they transform into citizens of their community. This program serves approximately 100 students from Father Keith B. Kenny and Pacific elementary schools serving over 100 students. Strings teachers meet with students from for one and a half hour lessons four times a week. No prior music experience is required and instruments are provided at no charge.

Curricular Arts

The district offers an array of Arts programs through elective courses offered in middle and high schools. Students at the high school level must complete ten (10) credits or one (1) course in the Arts as a requirement for graduating from high school. Students are able to select from traditional Arts classes such as music, dance, theatre, and visual art, as well as other courses such as photography, graphic arts, and animation. At the elementary level, some schools provide Arts programming through music and art preparation periods as well as through the integration of arts into other content areas.

Capacity Building

The district has initiated several approaches to building teacher and leader capacity to support and strengthen the quality of Arts instruction and programming at their sites has been through a range of partnerships with local, regional, and national Arts organizations. SCUSD has been able to provide the most current professional learning to its teachers in the areas of state standards.

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