



Support the Arts Education for All Act

Congressional Ask: We urge Members of Congress to cosponsor the Arts Education for All Act introduced by Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) with Representatives Chellie Pingree (D-ME) and Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM).

Background

The Arts Education for All Act (AEFA) is the broadest arts education policy bill ever introduced in Congress. The bill includes key provisions that will support and encourage arts education and programming for youth and adults in early learning centers, K-12 Schools, and juvenile justice facilities. Some of the ways the AEFA Act will do this is by providing support for arts access in K-12 schools, integrating the arts in afterschool and summer learning programs and allowing arts education to be used in reentry and recidivism reduction efforts.

The positive impact of an arts education for all students cannot be understated. Research has shown that access to an arts education improves students' test scores in math, reading, and writing. Beyond the benefits in the classroom, access to an arts education helps their development through social-emotional learning, improves students' mental health, and is vital to their overall wellness. Arts programs are often the first to be eliminated when budget cuts arise. Through the Arts Education for All Act, schools and educators will have the funding and resources they need to keep arts programming in place.

Among other provisions, the Act:

- Strengthens the ability to use Child Care Development Block grant funding for arts programming.
- Expands Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) plan provisions to include descriptions of how states would support and encourage the offering of arts education staff, instruction, and partnership to improve student achievement in all subjects.
- Requires State ESSA report cards to include information on arts courses to be included and infuses arts education as an element of K-12 school improvement.
- Increases opportunities for local education agencies to support professional development for arts teachers and integration of the arts in communities.

- Strengthens the integration of the arts and arts education through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (after-school) program by maximizing partnerships with community and other arts-focused organizations. These organizations increase the amount of arts education and creative youth development available in after-school and summer learning programs.
- Provides for states to document how they will coordinate services and activities for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention with State and local arts agencies as well as arts organizations, by utilizing arts education to improve reentry efforts and to reduce recidivism.
- Enhances research activities at the Institution for Education Science through a focus on arts and arts education research.
- Directs the National Assessment Governing Board to reinstate national arts assessments.