

Studying *THE ARTS* Benefits Student Achievement and Success

In the state's current budget crisis and climate, the use of evidence-based action and advocacy are needed to continue making a compelling case for why arts matter for all students at all levels of education—the arts are significant in helping students achieve success in school, work and life.

In one well-documented study researchers from UCLA, using a federal database of over 25,000 middle and high school students, found those with high arts involvement performed better on standardized achievement tests than students with low arts involvement. Several studies also revealed that students who participate in arts learning experiences often improve their achievement in other realms of learning and life.*

One way to sum up student benefits cited in arts research report, *Critical Links*, is as simple as A-B-C. Learning in the arts is **academic, basic, and comprehensive!**

Academic

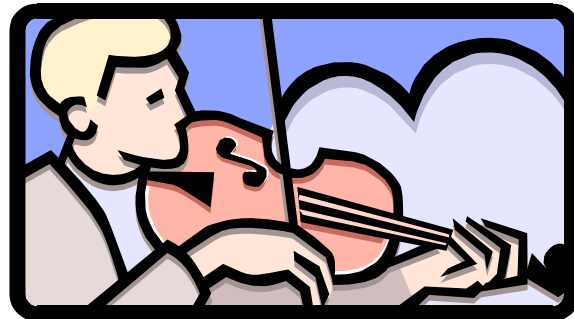
- Reading and Language Skills
- Mathematics Skills

Basic

- Thinking Skills
- Social Skills
- Motivation to Learn

Comprehensive

- Positive School Environment



Parents and community advocates must keep the arts front and center on education agendas in their local schools.

*Information gathered from a diverse collection of studies examining how arts learning experiences in five major art form areas—dance, drama, visual arts, music and multi-arts—affect the academic achievement and social development of children and youth. The collected studies were published as a research compendium, *Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Academic and Social Development*, available at www.aep-arts.org/resources/research.htm.