

CALIFORNIA STATE PTA
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SMARTS

Bring Back the Arts!
To Our Schools. To Our Children.

California State PTA

The California PTA wants to bring the arts back into our schools and back into the lives of our children. Extensive research during the past decade now confirms the arts improve academic and personal success. Real education reform must “Bring back the Arts.”

Please join our efforts to help parents, teachers and legislators understand the importance of the arts. The California State PTA wants to create advocates for quality arts education at every school in California.

10 Things You Can Do

1. **Start a “ SMARTS: Bring Back the Arts” PTA advocacy group** at your school. Make it part of your regular PTA meeting.
2. **Invite parents, teachers, students and community members .** Share information about the California State PTA campaign to “Bring Back the Arts.”.
3. **Create an email list.** Send this list to your PTA district to ensure that you receive the PTA “SMARTS: Bring Back the Arts” on-line newsletter. You can start by sending the following arts information to your email list:

The Benefits of an Arts Education

One page fact sheet available for download from The Arts Education Partnership at <http://aep-arts.org/tfadvoc/advocacy/benefits.pdf>

Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning

Download the complete report at <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/champions/pdfs/ChampsReport.pdf>

California State PTA Web site at

www.capta.org

- 4. Review the visual and performing arts programs at your schools.** Invite school staff as well as the arts and business community to help.

Do you have a quality program for all students?

Do you have enough teachers, teaching materials, musical instruments, artists in residence, and staff development?

What areas need improvement?

What are your funding needs?

For more information, see the California Alliance for Arts Education Web site at www.artsed411.org.

- 5. Meet with your local and state elected officials.**

Tell them about the need for the arts in your school.

Invite them to be part of a campaign to bring the arts back into your schools.

- 6. Meet with your school district superintendent.** Tell the superintendent you want the arts included in the budget. **Caution**—do your homework: find out what's currently in the budget and what the district offers.

- 7. Make presentations to the Board of Education and Board of Supervisors** about the value of arts in school. Tell them specifically what is needed at your school site. **INVITE THE PRESS.**

- 8. Join coalitions advocating for the arts.** Invite them to join you at school board and City Council meetings so that the issue of funding the arts can be included in the budget process.

- 9. Invite elected officials and their families to school performances.**

Invite them to your Reflections Program

Bring a performance to the Board of Education or Board of Supervisors meeting. **INVITE THE PRESS.**

- 10. Support the arts in your child's classroom and at home.** For more information, refer to **Art Education Page for K12** the Internet School Library Media Center (ISLMC) Art Education page, a searchable meta-site for teachers, librarians, parents and students to preview selected links.

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/arteducation.htm>