Bringing Back the Arts:
A Policy Pathway to Equitable Arts Education in New Orleans

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PROBLEM

Since Katrina, scattered and inequitable access to a well-rounded education that includes the arts in New Orleans K-12 public schools.

Need for clear benchmarks of equity and excellence, as well as ongoing support for arts education programming.
POLITICAL DYNAMICS

• Post-Katrina decentralized charter district moving toward reunification
• Re-authorization of ESSA, replacing NCLB and focusing on a “well-rounded education”
• Potential for a more arts-friendly education policy landscape
## RELATIVE DATA

- Any Given Child (2014-15): arts education “scattered, not sequenced or scaffolded”
- Louisiana Department of Education (2015-16):
  - 27% of students enrolled in Visual Arts or Art Study class
  - 37% of students enrolled in Music class
    - 26% Music/Music Theory/Music Study
    - 9% Band/Orchestra
    - 2% Choir

### School Letter Grades in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Visual Arts &amp; Art Study</th>
<th>Music</th>
<th>Gifted &amp; Talented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A - C</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D - F</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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POLICY STEPS

• Act 175 (2007)
  • 60 minutes of visual instruction weekly
  • 60 minutes of performing arts instruction weekly

• Louisiana’s State ESSA Plan
  • “focused on providing every child with access to courses and enriching experiences that promote a well-rounded education and foster lifelong learning and talents” (p. 31)
  • Interests & Opportunities Indicator (5% of SPS)
RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION

• Clear, comprehensive and standards-aligned indicators at the state level
• District-wide school policy recommendations
  • “Establishment of an Arts Education Policy is considered to be a key indicator of systemic sustainable arts education programs in a district” (California Alliance for Arts Education)
  • Maintain school autonomy, but provide common benchmarks and district-level programming supports
  • Articulate commitment to equity by providing a well-rounded education to all students