



May is Arts Education Month in Washington. During Arts Education Month, we call attention to the critical role of arts learning and celebrate the arts' contributions to our state. We support:

### Students First

We empower student voices to share the impact of arts learning and take initiative in their own schools and communities. Student voices need to be elevated in the decision-making processes that determine their future.

### Data & Transparency

We need increased visibility and statistically viable data about where and how the arts are being delivered. We measure what is important to us, from lead in the water to likes on social media. The Arts are important.

### Inclusion

Students in our state are not receiving an equitable arts education. Race, economics, geography, special education status, and language all affect not only participation in the arts but access as well. Our students ALL deserve the arts.

### Information

In Washington state, the arts are a core component in our state's definition of basic education. As our state legislature considers new funding mechanisms for basic education, where we are 39th in per-pupil spending in the nation, it is even more important to remind our leaders of this fact.

For the students in our state to have the best chance of fulfilling their potential, learning in and through the arts must be part of their education. To achieve this, we must all work together to deliver the complete education students have been promised.

Study after study shows that arts education teaches creative problem-solving and cultural awareness; offers multiple pathways to understanding for different learners; and increases connections and engagement between teachers, students, and the connected community that surrounds them.

We encourage you to visit [ArtsEdWashington.org](https://ArtsEdWashington.org) to learn more and find out how you can encourage arts education in your community.