

TALKING POINTS



SUPPORT CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL WISCONSIN STUDENTS

The Wisconsin Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education, co-chaired by Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Elizabeth Burmaster, reported that active participation in and understanding of the arts and creativity are essential to young people's success in school and in life. The same qualities that characterize successful arts education programs are also essential to making Wisconsin a leader in the global creative economy. Arts education rewards children by helping them to reach practical goals of academic achievement and career success. The arts are much more than just fun "extra" activities for kids. The profound impact of arts education on children and youth follows them throughout their lives, and participation in the arts opens up children's worlds and minds, and offers them the skills they need for a bright future. ***To provide opportunities for creative expression and engagement, and prepare Wisconsin's children for the 21st century workforce, we call for systemic, integrated arts educational opportunities for all Wisconsin students through policies and programs recommended by the Task Force.***

Talking points:

- The arts:
 - Improve kids' overall academic performance.
 - Show that kids actively engaged in arts education are likely to have higher test scores than those with little to no involvement.
 - Develop skills needed by the 21st century workforce: critical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication, teamwork and more.
 - Teach kids to be more tolerant and open.
 - Allow kids to express themselves creatively and bolster their self-confidence.
 - Keep students engaged in school and less likely to drop out.

State-level policies and local practices that encourage the arts as an integral component of the educational curriculum will have a great impact on the scope and access to quality arts education opportunities in Wisconsin. Task Force recommendations call for:

- Revising standards and assessment to infuse creativity development into class work;
- Ensuring that every Wisconsin school uses an interdisciplinary curriculum that systematically integrates creativity development into class work;
- Ensuring that all students have access to education in the full spectrum of the arts taught by qualified instructors and abundant opportunities to develop creativity throughout the curriculum;
- Identifying best practices and models for arts and creativity education as well as methods for sharing successful practices;
- Increasing professional learning opportunities and support for school staff to implement creative processes in the classroom;
- Continuing outreach to communities, business, and educational and arts organizations to foster partnerships and collaboration that strengthen arts education and the development of creative potential in all students;
- Fostering a climate of creative inquiry and innovation in the state through business partnerships and endorsements that support the arts and arts education; and
- Improving the arts and cultural environment—through state-level government, business, cultural, and professional organizations—as a tool for economic development, employee attraction and retention, and competitive advantage in the global marketplace.