

ARTS
EDUC



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The arts prepare students
for success in **school**.



Arts education develops thinking skills and capacities key to success in the 21st Century workforce. **Arts education:**

- 1 **Equips students to be creative.** Arts education develops creativity, one of the top five skills employers prize for the 21st Century.¹⁷ Students receiving an arts-rich education perform better on assessments of creativity than do students receiving little or no arts education.^{18.}

The arts prepare students for success in **life**.

Arts education prepares students to engage meaningfully in their communities. **Arts education:**

- 1 Strengthens perseverance.** Arts education develops students' capacity to persist in the face of a challenge. Through arts study, students improve in their ability to turn barriers into opportunities, overcome difficulty in completing complex tasks, and sustain attention.^{32, 33} In a longitudinal study of 25,000 secondary school students, those with higher involvement in the arts scored better on measures of persistence than their peers with lower arts involvement.³⁴
- 2 Facilitates cross-cultural understanding.** Arts experiences foster pro-social behaviors and social tolerance that help prepare students for life in an increasingly global and culturally diverse world. Ensemble performance, community mural painting, and other group arts experiences in which participants are from diverse backgrounds demonstrate particular value for developing cross-cultural understanding.^{35, 36}
- 3 Builds community and supports civic engagement.** Arts programs foster a sense of community among participants that supports their personal, artistic, civic, and social development. They also offer a vehicle for effecting change in the surrounding



community.^{37, 38} Students who have had an arts-rich education volunteer more often and exhibit greater civic engagement than other students.³⁹

- 4 Fosters a creative community.**

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