

Date of Hearing: June 21, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, TOURISM, AND
INTERNET MEDIA

Kansen Chu, Chair

SCR 112 (Fuller) – As Introduced February 18, 2016

SENATE VOTE: 36-0

SUBJECT: Arts Education Month.

SUMMARY: This measure would proclaim March 2016 to be Arts Education Month and would encourage all elected officials to participate with their educational communities in celebrating the arts. Specifically, **this bill** makes the following findings and declarations:

- 1) Arts education, which includes dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts, is an essential and integral part of basic education for all pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.
- 2) The arts are crucial to achieving a state educational policy that is devoted to the teaching of basic academic skills and lifelong learning capacities with the goal of truly preparing all children for success after high school regardless of gender, age, economic status, physical ability, or learning ability.
- 3) A systematic, substantive, and sequential visual and performing arts curriculum addresses and develops ways of thinking, questioning, expression, and learning that complement learning in other core subjects, but that is unique in what it has to offer.
- 4) Pupils benefit from arts learning in the areas of cultural understanding, readiness for learning and creative thinking, cognitive outcomes, emotional intelligence and expression, social interaction and collaboration, and preparation for the workplace and lifelong learning.
- 5) Arts education in California is mandated for pupils in grades 1 to 12, inclusive, by Sections 51210 and 51220 of the Education Code, which provide, in part, “[t]he adopted course of study ... shall include instruction ... in ... [v]isual and performing arts, including instruction in the subjects of dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative expression”.
- 6) The arts are recognized as part of a quality education, and the University of California and the California State University have instituted a policy that includes visual and performing arts as a college preparatory subject for all high school pupils wishing to enter California’s institutions of higher education.
- 7) Throughout the last 10 years, arts education programs have enjoyed significant investments by the State of California and continue to see support by the Legislature.
- 8) It is the intent that this funding help implement a comprehensive vision for arts education at the local level, to ensure that every pupil in California benefits from this investment.

- 9) This funding is the first step in investing in quality visual and performing arts programs for all California pupils.
- 10) Many national and state professional arts education associations hold celebrations in the month of March, giving California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of the arts for all pupils, to foster cross-cultural understanding, to give recognition to the state's outstanding young artists, and to enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum.
- 11) Proclaims the month of March 2016 as Arts Education Month and encourages all elected officials to participate with their educational communities in celebrating the arts with meaningful activities and programs for pupils, teachers, and the public that demonstrate learning and understanding in the visual and performing arts, and urges all residents to become interested in and give full support to quality school arts programs for children and youth.

EXISTING LAW: No existing law.

FISCAL EFFECT: None. The Legislative Council has keyed this Resolution non-fiscal.

COMMENTS:

Author's statement and support. This Resolution is supported by California Alliance for Arts Education, who state, "Research shows that the arts are a critical link in student success. Arts education is linked to higher test scores across all subjects, as well as lower dropout rates. It fosters creativity and imagination, hallmarks of careers in the 21st century. Beyond the classroom, the arts are shown to nurture collaboration and civic engagement in young people."

According to the author, "Arts Education includes dance, music, theatre, literature, design, and various visual arts. California has made a conscious decision to continue the support of arts education. Arts Education has been made a key area in the general education of high school and post-secondary education. The UC and CSU systems require high school students to satisfy a visual or performing arts requirement by completing a yearlong course in dance, music, theatre or visual arts. Arts Education month gives us the chance to highlight the important learning and growth opportunities arts education gives our students."

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Alliance for Arts Education

Opposition

There is no opposition on file.

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