



Fine arts instruction is a crucial component of a well-rounded education. The fine arts accommodate different learning styles and strengths, and give kids the opportunity to become creative, critical thinkers.

Instruction in the fine arts also prepares students to participate in Georgia's growing and vibrant creative economy. The creative industries in our state represent a combined \$29 billion in revenue, including 200,000 employees earning \$8 billion in wages.

Georgia has the opportunity to expand the definition of readiness to include a more holistic approach to public education—one that provides fine arts opportunities. On these pages, you'll learn more about our focus on the fine arts.

21,366 Georgia students completed a Fine Arts Pathway in 2016.

OUR EFFORTS

Offering STEAM certification. We've developed guidelines so schools providing an excellent, blended STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) education can receive certification. This certification complements the current STEM requirements.



Creating a Fine Arts Diploma Seal. This seal awarded to high school graduates is a signal to employers and higher education institutions that a student is prepared to participate in Georgia's robust Creative Industries sector. We're producing fine arts-focused materials for counselors and exploring offering dual fine arts and CTAE pathways to meet business and industry needs.

Ensuring a voice for fine arts in Georgia's ESSA plan.

The Georgia Council for the Arts as well as fine arts teachers have been invited to serve on GaDOE's Education of the Whole Child working committee. Among other topics, the committee will explore ways that federal funds can strengthen arts offerings in the state.

Refining fine arts standards. We're completing a review of the standards for fine arts—the first since 2009. Visual art, media art, and theatre will be reviewed and revised in the 2016-17 school year. Dance and music will follow in 2017-18.

Collaboration: Increasing access to virtual arts courses

We're continually updating and expanding the fine arts offerings of our Georgia Virtual School, so students in all areas of the state have access to fine arts opportunities. Students across the state continue to view GAVS as a great way to enhance their learning: enrollment increased by more than 8,000 in the last year.



We want students who are prepared for college and careers in the arts. A sequential K-12 fine arts education, **arts integration** in non-arts subjects, and **STEAM programs** will prepare students for this economic sector.

— Jessica Booth, GaDOE Fine Arts Specialist

FEDERAL FOCUS ON THE FINE ARTS MATCHES THE STATE'S FOCUS

The Every Student Succeeds Act—the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—places an emphasis on “well-rounded education,” defined as courses, activities, and programming that give all students access to an *enriched curriculum and educational experience*. As Georgia develops its state ESSA plan, the fine arts are a focus of the *Education of the Whole Child* working committee.

In addition to referencing subjects like English, foreign languages, and civics, ESSA adds arts, dance, music and theatre to a student’s well-rounded education.

The key is that the intent is for all students to have access to fine arts subject areas. This resonates with the new GaDOE Strategic Plan and the interest surrounding the fine arts as a major sector of Georgia’s economy.

ESSA provides support to schools that integrate subjects, including the arts, into STEM and humanities classes. GaDOE is supporting fine arts education through the creation of the new STEAM certification, the fine arts diploma seal, and other initiatives detailed on these pages.

FINE ARTS AND THE ECONOMY

Of the 100 most populated counties in the United States, Fulton County has the **fourth-largest number of arts-related businesses per capita**



Words of Wisdom

Kate
McLeod

Head of School and
Teacher Services,
High Museum of Art

ARTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

“I was speaking to a high school student this week who told me that school would be ‘terrible’ if it weren’t for her art class—that she wouldn’t fit in, wouldn’t be heard, couldn’t express herself. Allowing additional outlets for students while also integrating the arts into the general education classroom helps us get to those students who would otherwise fall through the cracks.”

 Read more testimonials at educatinggeorgiasfuture.org.

