Response to National Assessment Governing Board Decision
to Terminate Arts Assessment

The organizations listed below strongly oppose the decision announced on July 24, 2019 by the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) members to narrow the breadth of subjects assessed by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

This unexpected announcement by NAGB to eliminate the arts from the assessment schedule did not include input from the field and has large and negative repercussions for a subject of learning that has broad support from parents, educators, and policymakers across the country.

As recently as 2015, Congress defined a “Well-Rounded Education” in the Every Student Succeeds Act to include the “arts” and has for over two decades provided funding annually to the U.S. Department of Education to support the arts within its grant programs.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress in the Arts is a unique resource for measuring what students know and are able to do when creating, performing, connecting, and responding to the arts. The arts education community remains committed to supporting the NAEP Arts Assessment, as it did in 1994 through planning and financial development. The assessment is based on the 1994 NAEP Arts Education Assessment Framework, which describes the assessment content and provides the method of evaluating student responses. The framework is a broadly-accepted outline of what hundreds of arts educators, arts curriculum experts, policymakers, business representatives and members of the general public think the arts assessment should measure. This Framework was one of the bases informing the development of the 2014 National Core Arts Standards, which have gone on to inform 32 states in their revision of state arts standards in the last five years.

The Nation’s Arts Report Card is a reaffirmation that the arts are essential to a complete education and that learning in the arts is rigorous and measurable. In addition to measuring students’ knowledge and skills, the NAEP Arts Assessment also highlights how the availability of resources and opportunities in arts education may impact student achievement.

The 2016 Arts NAEP exposed significant differences in achievement across ethnicity, socio-economic status, school type (public or private) and gender. The release of the report prompts an important public dialogue regarding the status of arts education in the nation’s schools. The NAEP Arts Assessment has been used by policymakers and advocates alike to create, maintain, and expand access to arts education for all students.

We strongly urge the National Assessment Governing Board to immediately reinstate the scheduled arts assessment and begin development of the necessary instrument to implement the 2024 Arts NAEP.
Sincerely,

04ARTS Foundation
ahha Tulsa
Alabama Art Education Association
Alabama Arts Alliance
Alabama Shakespeare Festival
Allied Arts Council of St. Joseph, MO Inc.
American Alliance of Museums*
Americans for the Arts Action Fund*
Americans for the Arts*
Angelica Center for Arts and Music
Arizona Dance Education Organization
Arizona Music Educators Association
Arizona’s Round Table Advisory Committee for Arts Education
Arkansas Dance Network
ArtPride New Jersey
Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes
Arts Council of York County
Arts Council Santa Cruz County
Arts Cultures Works
Arts Ed NJ*
Arts Education Collaborative
Arts Education in Maryland Schools
Arts Education Partnership*
Arts for Colorado
Arts North Carolina
ArtsMemphis
Association of Art Museum Directors*
Austin Community Steelband
Austin Jazz Workshop
Birmingham Children’s Theatre
Brattleboro Museum & Art Center
Brattleboro Music Center
California Alliance for Arts Education
California Arts Advocates
California Dance Education Association
California State Thespians
Californians for the Arts
CannonLeighStudio
Carpe Diem Arts, Inc.
Carpenter Square Theatre
Cathedral Arts Project
Center ARTES at California State University San Marcos
Chamber Music America*
Chorus America*
CityRep, The Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre
CMEA, The California Music Educators Association
Colleen McCall Ceramics
College of Charleston
Colorado Citizens for Culture
Colorado State Thespians
Community Arts of Ellmira
Community Arts Partnership, Inc.
Community Engagement Lab
Creative Generation
Custom Creations
Dan Gallagher Arts
Dance/USA*
DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative
Delaware Art Education Association
Delaware Arts Alliance
Delaware Arts Conservatory
Delaware Dance Education Organization
Delaware Thespians
EdTA Arkansas
Educational Theatre Association Ohio Chapter
Momentum Stage
MoveWest
Moving Experience, Inc.
Music Education Consultants, Inc.
Musical Theatre Center
NAMM Foundation*
National Art Education Association*
National Association for Music Education*
National Coalition for Core Arts Standards
National Dance Education Organization*
National Guild for Community Arts Education
NC American Choral Director's Association
Nebraska Music Education Association
Nebraska Thespians
Nevada Thespians
New Jersey Thespians
New London Maritime Society - Custom House Maritime Museum
New Mexico Advisory Council on Arts Education
New Mexico Music Educators Association
New York State School Music Association
No Boundaries Youth Theater (CT)
North Carolina Arts Council
North Carolina Art Education Association
North Carolina Dance Education Organization
North Carolina Educational Theatre Association
North Carolina Music Educators Association
North Carolina Theatre Arts Educators
North Carolina Theatre Conference
Northwest Colorado Arts Council
NY Thespians
The Oklahoma Chapter of the International Thespian Society
Oklahoma Concession Supply
Oklahomans for the Arts
OPERA America*
PA Thespians
Painted Sky Opera
Parman & Easterday
Paseo School Of Art
Peace Center
Peak Academy of Dance
Pennsylvania Music Educators Association
Percussive Arts Society
Performing Arts Workshop
Pollard Theatre Company
Progressive Music
Quadrant Research*
QuaverMusic.com
Recording Academy*
Route 66 Alliance
Save The Music Foundation*
Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra
Shelburne Museum
Sing A Mile High Children's Choral Festival
SLB Educational Consultant
Source Consulting Group
South Carolina Arts Alliance
South Carolina Music Educators Association
South Dakota Music Education Association
South Dakota Thespians
South Jersey Cultural Alliance
Springfield Area Arts Council
Stamford Center for the Arts Palace Theatre
State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education*
Stroud Arts, Inc.
Stuart’s Opera House
Talihina Economic Development Initiative
Teaching Artists Guild
Tempest Productions Inc.
Texas for the Arts
Texas Cultural Trust
Texas Music Educators Association
The Performing Arts Alliance*
The Phi Beta Kappa Society*
Theatre Communications Group*
Theatre Macon
Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands
University of Vermont Lane Series
Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City
Utah Cultural Alliance
Utah Dance Education Organization
Vermont Arts Council
Vermont Folklife Center
Vermont House of Representatives
Vermont Humanities Council
Vermont International Film Foundation
Vermont Performance Lab
Vermont Symphony Orchestra
Vermont Youth Orchestra Association
Virginia Theatre Association
Virginia Thespians
Washington State Thespian Society
West Virginia Dance Education Organization
West Virginia Music Educators Association
West Virginia Thespians
Williamsburg County School District
Wisconsin Music Educators Association
Wisconsin School Music Association
Women Printmakers of Austin
Wyoming Thespians
Young Audiences Arts for Learning*
Young Voices of Colorado

*The organizations denoted with an asterisk signed the official letter to NAGB on July 31, 2019. The letter remains open for endorsement by additional organizations, and all signatories (updated 11.12.19) are unified in their support for reinstatement of arts assessment.