

## **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

Educational Theatre Association\*

Elevate Arts Ed

Envision Learning Partners

Everyday Arts, Inc.

Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater & Academy

Farther, Faster, Funner

Find Your Light Foundation

Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County

Florida Cultural Alliance

Florida Dance Education Organization

Florida Music Education Association

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts

Footlight Players

Future of Music Coalition\*

Georgia Music Educator's Association (GMEA)

Georgia Thespians

Goddard Center for the Visual and Performing Arts

Grantmakers in the Arts

Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium

Grove Community Playmakers

Hawai'i Arts Alliance

Hawaii Thespians

Helen Day Art Center

HMA Foundation

Idaho Music Educators Association

Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA)

Inclusive Arts Vermont

Indian Nation Professional Photographer Association (INPPA)

Indiana Thespians

Inspire Washington

Jai-Dee Dancewear

Kansas Music Educators Association

Kansas Thespians

Kentuckians for the Arts

Kentucky Music Educators Association

Kinsella Arts, Inc.

Latimer County Arts Council

League of American Orchestras\*

Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education

Louisiana Thespians

Louisville Ballet

Main Street Arts

Maine Music Educators Association

Maryland Chapter of Educational Theatre Association

Massachusetts Cultural Council

Massachusetts Educational Theatre Association

Massachusetts Music Educators Association

MASSCreative

McLean Project for the Arts

Michigan Dance Council

Michigan Educational Theatre Association

MINDPOP

Minnesota Citizens for the Arts

Minnesota Music Educators Association

Mississippi Presenters Network

Missouri Alliance for Arts Education

Missouri Art Education Association

Missouri Citizens for the Arts

Missouri Music Educators Association

Mobile Arts Council

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.  
Texans 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.*