ACTION NEEDED:

✓ Urge support for hiring school-based fine arts and music educators, implementing arts integration curriculum, and expanding community-based arts learning opportunities.

✓ Back increased funding for the Oklahoma Arts Council education programs to ensure opportunities for all Oklahoma students to develop critical and creative learning skills.

✓ Call for committing to arts education as an essential part of a well-rounded education.

ARTS EDUCATION’S BENEFITS:
Students from all backgrounds benefit from arts education. Research demonstrates that participation in the arts boosts learning and outcomes for children, including:

✓ Improved student achievement.
✓ Better attendance.
✓ Lower misconduct rates.
✓ Increased parental involvement.
✓ Problem solving skills.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY ARTS EDUCATION?
For a child’s education to be complete, it must include the arts. Arts education---- music, dance, visual arts, drama/theatre and media arts-- prepares students for school, work and life.

Students gain from arts education in multiple ways:

1. Sequential arts education taught by certified teachers in the arts supports state standards and goals for students to have a well-rounded and complete education.

2. Creative youth development through artists-in-residence, after school programs, community arts enrichment and homeschool arts programs helps students build personal, social and intellectual capacities.
3. **Arts integration** helps students, brings the project-based, problem solving strengths of the arts to learning other subject areas.

**STATE LEVEL DECISIONS:**
Many decisions and policies about arts education are made in the local school districts. But our State Legislators have influence over several important resources and structures:

- **Funding**— Schools need funding to have the teachers and resources for arts education. The Legislature and Governor decide the State Department of Education’s budget.
  - The budget impacts district funding, teacher salaries and enrichment programs.
    - Including Competitive Grants to the Oklahoma Arts Council’s alternative education arts grants, the Oklahoma A+ Schools arts integration programs and the Oklahoma Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain, which were cut drastically over the past few years.
  - *We seek improved funding for public education that allows well-rounded education including arts learning.*

  The Oklahoma Art Council’s budget is decided by the State Senate, House and Governor.
  - That budget impacts teaching artists in schools, the performing artist roster, after school arts programs, community arts education and more.
  - The Oklahoma Arts Council’s budget has been already cut. See budget facts here.
  - *We seek improved funding for the Oklahoma Arts Council so that students can benefit from community and school-based arts enrichment.*

- **Policies**— Oklahoma needs requirements and standards that encourage quality arts education for all students.

  The Legislature defines the framework for education in Oklahoma, including the accountability measures that guide the State Department of Education’s work.
  - *We encourage policies and accountability to support strong arts education statewide.*