



# VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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# AGENDA ITEM

**Agenda Item:** P

**Date:** March 28, 2024

**Title:** Presentation on the Virginia Arts Education Data Project

**Presenter:** Kelly A. Bisogno, Coordinator of Fine Arts

### **Purpose of Presentation**

For information only: No action required.

### **Executive Summary**

Arts education enrollment in Virginia is tracked internally by Virginia Department of Education (“VDOE”) staff and externally through the Virginia Arts Education Data Project. The data provides a comprehensive look at arts education enrollment over time at the state, division, and school level. This presentation offers a brief snapshot of available data, including key facts:

- Enrollment in fine arts courses in Virginia is steady at approximately 71% of K-12 Virginia students enrolling in at least one fine arts course over the last five years.
- Last school year, 74% of middle school students enrolled in at least one fine arts course, and 38% of high school students enrolled.
- Enrollment in AP and IB fine arts courses has increased 17% over five years.
- Seniors enrolled in four years of fine arts courses each year since 2020 demonstrate a 32% to 50% lower absenteeism rate than those who did not take a fine arts course during high school. These findings hold when comparing data across fine arts disciplines and for key variables such as race/ethnicity, enrollment in Free and Reduced-Price Meal programs, and English Learners.

Tracking fine arts education data at local, division, and state levels allows leaders to evaluate enrollment trends and make data-informed decisions.

Virginia has a long-standing commitment to including fine arts programs as part of a comprehensive and best-in-class public education system. The data is clear: Fine arts programs are a significant component of Virginia’s public education system and are supported by students, parents, educators, education leaders, and school communities.

**Action Requested**

No action requested.

**Superintendent's Recommendation**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept this report.

**Previous Review or Action**

No previous review or action.

**Background Information and Statutory Authority**

In May 2020, the Board of Education approved the revised Fine Arts Standards of Learning. The revised Standards placed an increased focus on creative process, technology and innovation, and career and workplace readiness. In addition, standards were added for K-8 Dance Arts and K-5 Theatre Arts so that each fine arts discipline has K-12 standards.

Since the 2020 standards were released, VDOE staff have published instructional resources to support their effective implementation, including standards-aligned instructional plans, career and workplace readiness resources, tools for evaluating high-quality materials, and administrator look-for documents.

Some of the data in this report comes from the Arts Education Data Project, a Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education ("VCFAE") project in connection with Quadrant Research and the National Arts Education Data Project. The VCFAE includes representatives from professional organizations for arts education, including the Virginia Art Education Association (VAEA) and the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA).

**Implementation and Communication**

Arts education enrollment trends will continue to be tracked in the coming years. In addition, additional data questions and correlations could be made upon request, such as correlations between arts enrollment and student achievement on standardized tests, impacts of school innovation initiatives and alternative schedule practices on arts enrollment, and student demographics in arts programs.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources**

There is no fiscal or human resources impact associated with this report.