



Four Reasons Why Arts Education is Central to College Prep and Long-term Success

This year, September 8-14 is a week to celebrate Arts in Education across the nation. Did you know that dance instruction can improve reading and acting out stories can improve academic skills? In fact, arts education has been shown to build the academic and soft skills our kids need to succeed in college and in life.

Here's what the research says:

Arts education and arts processes, such as playing in a band or rehearsing a play, create opportunities for action and reflection. Through these ongoing cycles of action and reflection, young people build the foundational components of long-term success: self-regulation; knowledge and skills; positive academic mindsets; and values.

Foundations for Young Adult
Success: A Developmental
Framework

Long-term Success

Teaching students to become learners requires more than improving test scores. It requires transforming classrooms into places alive with ideas that engage students' natural curiosity and desire to learn in preparation for college, career, and meaningful adult lives. While arts ed classrooms are often associated with these characteristics, educators at large could explore ways to translate arts education strategies to their classrooms.

Teaching Adolescents to Become Learners and Arts Education and Social-Emotional Learning Outcomes Among K-12 Students Participation in arts education practices and processes can translate into the development of both artistic and social-emotional competencies, including self-management and self-discipline, interpersonal skills, and self-expression, that extend beyond arts.

Arts Education and Social-Emotional
Learning Outcomes Among K-12
Students: Developing a Theory of Action

Arts Ed

College

Prep

Social-

Emotional

Learning

GPA and Graduation

Grades in arts classes have been shown to affect a student's ability to graduate from high school and their future access to selective colleges.

Hidden Risk: Changes in

Hidden Risk: Changes in GPA across the Transition to High School

1 Deasy, R.J. (Ed.) (2002). *Critical links: Learning in the arts and student academic and social development*. Washington, DC:
Arts Education Partnership.