



FLORIDA SEAL OF FINE ARTS LEGISLATIVE TALKING POINTS

NEED: There is a need to recognize the value of rigorous arts education programs in Florida.

- At present, the state accountability system does not include criteria to recognize rigorous coursework and high-level achievement in the arts.
 - There is no state incentive to build and support thriving arts programs. Students and schools are not rewarded for having strong arts programs, even though there is ample evidence of the positive impact these programs.
 - When principals are faced with championing an exemplary arts program or championing a program that boosts the school grade, they are faced with difficult choices.

Why is Arts Education important?

- Quality rigorous arts education programs are correlated with academic achievement.
 - Three Florida DOE research studies have consistently shown that there is a significantly greater proficiency rates at graduation for students enrolling in four or more credits of fine arts and those enrolling in few or no fine arts courses. This difference extends across socioeconomic factors, race categories and students with disabilities.
- Rigorous arts education promotes creative thinking skills. A survey of CEOs clearly indicated that creativity, reasoning, and problem-solving skills are high priorities when seeking quality candidates for work.
- Fosters strong communication and interpersonal skills, builds self-confidence, and self-motivation.
- Prepares students for the workforce – arts education fosters commitment to quality, perseverance, and teamwork. Arts education prepares students for jobs in related industries.

What will the Seal of Fine Arts do?

- Recognize a high level of achievement in arts, including requiring exemplary grades in arts coursework.
- Provide data on correlation between arts achievement and achievement across the curriculum.
- Outline clear, consistent, rigorous criteria to earn the Seal of Fine Arts.