

Arts and Wyoming Education

Information from the **Wyoming Arts Alliance**

Arts and Education

Studies indicate that children's education that include the fine and performing arts provide the following academic benefits (with distinct benefits to economically disadvantaged youth at risk of dropping out):

- Increased attendance
- Higher Grade Point Average
- Higher SAT and ACT scores
- Heightened creativity and innovation, which rank in the top five skills desired by employers.

Findings also suggest that arts related studies in college are regarded as a key indicator of creativity by potential employers.

Source: Arts for Life; National Assembly of States Arts Agencies; The Conference Board

Arts Education and Academic Achievement

Studies measuring creative thinking, critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning all find these functions increase and improve when arts education is added to the educational mix. Dancers tested better on memory and motion processing than non-dancers and musicians demonstrated better auditory-visual discrimination and aural recognition than non-musicians. Another study has found that through visual art studio classes, students develop habits of mind for sustained focus, imagination, close observation and articulation of their decision-making process.



Correlative studies show a strong relationship between arts education and:

- positive emotional development that leads to stronger abilities to self-regulate
- deep engagement in learning
- motivation to learn for understanding
- a decrease in disciplinary issues in schools
- self-awareness, self-concept and self-expression
- self-efficacy and self-confidence

Source: Perpich Center for Arts Education

Arts Education Prepares the Future Workforce

The fine and performing arts prepare students for the demands of living in the 21st century by teaching skills for success in academic settings and workforce skills demanded by employers. These skills include:

- Ability to toggle between left brain (logical thinking patterns) & right brain skills
- Creativity
- Originality
- Collaboration
- Envisioning/"Big Picture Thinking"
- Problem Solving
- Higher Order Thinking Skills
- Communication
- Design
- Initiative
- Cultural Literacy
- Work Ethic/Discipline

Source: Habits of Mind

