

College & Career Readiness

Arts Education Is Essential

All Texas students deserve a well-rounded education that includes the arts. Fine arts courses provide students a safe place to **express themselves, take risks, and collaborate** with others. Students in arts courses develop essential characteristics for a successful future:

- **Confidence**
- **Effective communication**
- **Analytical reasoning**
- **Problem-solving**
- **Creativity**
- **Accountability**
- **Perseverance**
- **Ingenuity**
- **Flexibility and adaptability**



Arts education is not a frill; it is beneficial to every student. The arts help teachers reach students across a broad spectrum of learning styles and raise achievement in at-risk students, young children, underserved populations, and students with disabilities.

—Gaston Caperton, President, The College Board (2010)



Other States Use Arts As a Measure of School Quality

Five states already include the arts in their accountability systems, and others are considering adding similar measures. —*Education Week* (March 7, 2017)



Texas leads the nation in arts education, and how we examine school quality should reflect our commitment to offer all students a well-rounded education.

The arts are a response to our individuality and our nature and help to shape our identity. The arts are not a frill and should not be treated as such. They have the potential to become the driving force for healing division and divisiveness.

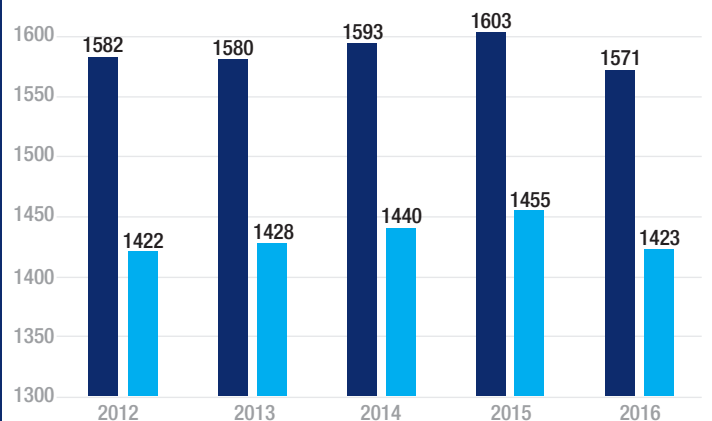
— Former Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan —

The College Board reports that **students with four years of music/arts study score 10–12% higher on the SAT than others.**

Texas schools with more students in music classes have:

- **better academic ratings**
- **fewer discipline problems**
- **higher attendance rates**

SAT Scores of Fine Arts Students



■ Students with 4 years of music/arts study
 ■ Students with less than a half-year of music/arts study

Source: The College Board College Bound Seniors Total Group Profile Reports, 2012–2016.