

What People Are Saying

“Increasing access to quality arts education has been a longstanding goal of the State Arts Council,” **said New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way.** “Creativity is key as we look to the future and consider the skills needed to thrive at work, home and in our communities. This is an exciting milestone, and we at the Department of State look forward to continuing our work through the Council with the visionary partners at Arts Ed NJ, to ensure that all New Jersey students get the complete education they deserve.”

“I’m proud of New Jersey’s success in providing arts education to our students,” **said Education Commissioner Dr. Lamont O. Repollet.** “Research tells us that participation in the arts has a positive effect on academic outcomes, improves school engagement, and is linked with an increased likelihood of attaining a postsecondary degree.”

“My life as a professional Rock and Roll musician and a Broadway composer is the result of my musical education in Edison schools. Being a part of this project from the beginning, it is amazing to see the impact Arts Ed NJ has had expanding arts participation to millions of students,” **said David Bryan, Founding member of Bon Jovi, Multiple Tony Award winner and inductee at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.** “Due to Arts Ed NJ, students have rightful access to arts education as part of their basic education. Traveling to schools across New Jersey and across the nation, I’ve seen first-hand the power of the arts to inspire students regardless of their career choice. There are many facets of music education, including applying math to music, providing a place to go after school and an introduction to team building skills. This project has brought together all sides of the aisle for a greater common cause. Today I join with Governor Murphy and all the project partners in celebrating this historic milestone for our state... and the nation.”

“Arts education equips students with many of the critical skills needed for success today – not the least of which are authentic self-expression, creative thinking, and innovative problem solving,” **said Allison Tratner, Executive Director of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.** “Collecting this data helps keep us accountable, charts the course for future efforts, and makes it possible to recognize this tremendous step forward in our efforts to ensure access to a complete education for every student in New Jersey.”

“We join in celebrating with Governor Murphy, Arts Ed NJ, and the many stakeholders who advocated for and contributed to these outstanding access outcomes,” **said Wendy Liscow, Education Program Director for the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.** “We will continue to work together to break down barriers to ensure that every NJ student has the opportunity to take sequential visual arts, music, theatre and dance coursework throughout their school career. We hope residents from across the state will join us in strongly supporting arts education which will transform young people’s lives.”