

## Key Findings from the 2019 New Jersey Arts Education Annual Report for the 2017/2018 School Year

New Jersey is recognized as a national leader in arts education and has become the first state in the nation to provide universal access to arts education for all public school students. This significant accomplishment is the product of state code requirements that arts be considered a core subject, strong policies that support the arts, the work of highly-qualified arts educators and the universal provision of arts education for all students.

- All students (100%) in the state have access to arts instruction, yet only 11% of students have access to all four arts disciplines required by state code.
- 81% percent of all students participated in one, or more, arts education course(s) during the year. This represents nearly 1.1 million students.
- Participation has increased from 65% in 2006 to 81% in 2018, which represents a 25% increase. There are now 250,000 more students participating in the arts annually than were a decade ago.
- More than 45,000 middle school students who should be participating in arts education (based on state requirements for elementary and middle school students) do not.
- Visual art and music are the most widely available of the arts disciplines at 94% and 96%, respectively. Only 6% of schools offer all four arts disciplines as required by state policy.
- Art (68%) and music (61%) had the highest participation among the four arts disciplines, followed by 3% participation for theatre and 2% participation for dance.
- There are 7,133 certified arts educators employed in the state. There are 3,169 visual art, 3,634 music, 149 theatre and 87 dance educators state-wide, as well as 101 arts administrators.
- The vast majority of arts educators are full-time employees (93%) and work in a single school (85%).
- At schools where an arts discipline is offered, the overall Student/Arts Teacher ratio is 197:1. For visual art, the ratio is 300:1; for music, the ratio is 225:1; for theatre, the ratio is 263:1; and for dance, the ratio is 315:1.
- Arts participation is higher in traditional public schools (82%) than in charter schools (73%). Charter schools offer greater access to dance (15% vs. 8%) and theatre (20% vs. 16%), while public schools provide greater access to music (95% vs. 73%) and visual art (98% vs. 88%).
- Arts participation and Student/Arts Teacher ratios vary when compared by District Factor Group, Free and Reduced Price Lunch, Majority Ethnicity and Chronic Absenteeism. These variances reveal equity issues across groups.