

# **Fine Arts Component of the Missouri Assessment Program**

## **A Position Statement**

The Missouri Alliance for Arts Education strongly urges the Missouri General Assembly to fully fund the fine arts component of the Missouri Assessment Program, or **Fine Arts MAP**, as requested by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

### **Full funding of the Fine Arts MAP is essential:**

- Inclusion in the statewide accountability system restores the arts as a critical component in education reflecting the integral role the arts play in children's development.
- With Fine Arts MAP data, fine arts educators will have the tools to make informed decisions about curriculum and instruction with the same precision as do teachers of other subject areas.
- The presence of a Fine Arts Assessment will prompt continued professional development and training for teachers in the arts and contributes statewide to overall teacher competency levels.
- Proven instructional strategies intergrating the arts will be strengthened as teachers across the state address and provide instruction in fulfillment of the Show-Me Standards Goal 2.1 - 2.7 and Fine Arts 1 - 5.

### **Exclusion of the Fine Arts MAP may have significant consequences for Missouri's public school students resulting in:**

- Reduced class time for instruction.
- Fewer resources allocated to arts education.
- Fewer opportunities for students to meet the expectations of the Show-Me Standards including:
  - applying techniques for the development of the arts by creating and doing (FA1).
  - understanding the principles and elements of the arts through knowing the structure of the arts (FA2).
  - analyzing and critiquing works of art by using higher-order thinking skills (FA3).
  - studying the interrelationships of the arts and other disciplines and making connections among the arts and within other subjects (FA4).
  - understanding the historical and cultural contexts of the arts, which leads to greater understanding of world issues (FA5).

## **BACKGROUND**

- Missouri developed an innovative, unique arts assessment for fifth-grade students that was test piloted once in 2001.
- Fine arts teachers from all regions of the state developed the questions that were included in the Fine Arts MAP.
- The Fine Arts MAP is administered in a video format. The students have the opportunity to hear music and observe close-up views of performances and artwork.

# *Missouri Alliance for Arts Education*

*"Fine Arts Education is Essential"*

## **A Position Statement**

*"From music and dance to painting and sculpting, the arts allow us to explore new worlds and to view life from another perspective." - President George W. Bush*

**The arts have intrinsic value expanding the mind and elevating humanity to its highest level.**

**Arts Education enhances the qualities that lead to success in school.**

- Research shows that students in arts programs consistently outperform other students in reading, vocabulary, language arts, and history.
- The arts education encompasses every learning style and can serve as the gateway to greater success in other academic subjects.
- There are valuable perceptual and performance concepts and skills to be learned by studying the arts, ways of thinking critically that cannot be learned by studying other subjects.
- The arts provide balance in education.

**Arts Education develops workplace skills.**

- Employers need workers who are analytical, disciplined, creative, and self-confident.
- Employers need workers who can solve problems, communicate ideas, work individually and as a team, and be sensitive to the world around them.
- Employers need workers who know the value of hard work and commitment over time.

**Culture is no longer a frill. It is fuel**

- generating billions of dollars in economic activity,
- attracting people and businesses,
- revitalizing communities, and
- is at the core of a quality education.

**Creative industries have a substantial effect on Missouri's economy**

- directly generating over 69,000 jobs and
- producing \$2.4 billion in labor income.

The following organizations comprise the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education:

Missouri Art Education Association, Missouri Dance Educators Organization, Missouri Music Educators Association, Missouri Thespians, and the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri, Missouri Arts Council, Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies, and Missouri Citizens for the Arts