



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
MARYLAND  
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

April 18, 2018



Ms. Lori Snyder  
Executive Director  
Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance  
190 West Ostend Street, Suite 210  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Re: Letter of Support for Arts Education Data  
Project Pilot

Dear Ms. Snyder:

I am writing in support of Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) participation in the Maryland Arts Education Data Dissemination Tool development and implementation. In MCPS, we believe the Arts Education Data Map project holds much promise. The idea of constructing an electronic portfolio collection tool with associated rubrics to drive and recognize excellence in the arts is an instrument that would strengthen Pre-K–5 arts education.

When we have the capability in our public schools to see what is happening in the arts statewide, to learn who is leading the various arts areas, to identify what resources are being used, to pinpoint where we have arts education deserts where capacity to grow through the arts must be nurtured, then practice will improve as will student outcomes. This also would provide school systems with the ability to build capacity to meet the needs of students, particularly those whose talents are in the arts.

MCPS is a school district that values the arts. We seek to give all schools in MCPS additional tools to improve their capacity for integrating the arts into instruction and we strive to increase access to arts-integrated learning opportunities for all of our students. We know that when the curriculum incorporates the arts, students are further motivated to learn and engage with the instructional materials and tasks at hand. We also know that students who are engaged and have constructive experiences at school are more likely to form positive relationships with peers and teachers. Learning through the arts and arts-integration are excellent, research-based vehicles for improving student achievement, social-emotional learning, and school culture.

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**

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850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850 ♦ 240-740-3020

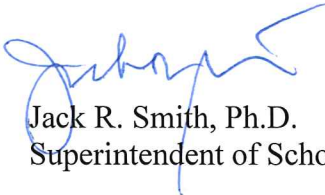
Ms. Lori Snyder

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I support this arts initiative and see it supporting our students on their overall Pre-K–12 learning journey. Our students need a learning environment where exposure to the arts is valued, inquiry is supported, and exploratory learning is part of daily instruction. I see the Arts Education Data Map project as a step to help Maryland educators build the capacity to reach and engage more young people across our state using the arts, arts integration, and artful thinking as the vehicles.

Sincerely,



Jack R. Smith, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

JRS:MVN:lsl

Copy to:  
Dr. Navarro