

Speak Up for Arts Education in your school!

The Arts Are...

Required by Law!

The [Code of Maryland Regulations \(COMAR 13A.04.16\)](#) requires that school systems provide their students with classes and experiences in Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

You may hear arts courses called “specials,” “resources,” or “electives” but the arts are CORE classes! Arts credits are required to graduate and arts classes are required by law!

Essential!

Students need the arts as [part of a well-rounded education](#)! Arts education develops creative problem-solving, critical thinking, language skills, and contributes to [Social Emotional Learning \(SEL\)](#). Students who participate in the arts have [higher retention rates and perform higher academically](#).

Beneficial!

The arts contribute to students' [mental health and wellbeing](#) (this is true for adults, too!). The arts offer students to find creative ways to express themselves, process their experiences, and [take action to challenge injustice](#). In the face of trauma, [the arts help us heal](#).