



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-168

TO: School District Superintendents
Curriculum Directors
Principals

FROM: Alan Moore, Director, Standards and Assessment Unit
Rita Basom, Wyoming Arts Council

DATE: October 16, 2009

SUBJECT: Arts Education Survey

APM

INFORMATION TO SHARE

A new survey from the Wyoming Arts Council and the Wyoming Department of Education will gather the knowledge needed to better understand arts education in our schools. On October 19, 2009, an email will be sent to every principal requesting that he or she complete the survey. It will be available online until December 4, 2009. We request that you, as the leader of your district, ask principals to complete the survey for their schools. The survey is attached to this memo in Word format for your information.

Arts education fosters problem solving, creativity, observation skills, collaboration, visual literacy and many other important "intangible" skills that are crucial to a 21st century worker. Participation in the arts has been linked to a higher graduation rate and retention of at-risk students. Excellent and abundant arts programming has been linked to higher test scores in math, science, and reading. Isn't it strange, then, that we know very little about arts programming in schools?

The information collected from this survey will be synthesized and packaged to provide Wyoming's Arts Council and Department of Education with an annual snapshot of the state of arts education in Wyoming. The snapshot will provide consistent and credible data that can be shared with policy makers and community leaders. Participating schools will receive a report illustrating how each school compares to others, both statewide and regionally (the region includes Utah, Idaho and Montana).

School District Superintendents
Curriculum Coordinators
Principals
Memo No. 2009-168
October 16, 2009
Page 2

Principals, or their designee, may complete the survey online. To save time, we recommend that the person completing the survey use the attached Word document to gather the information needed prior to entering it into the online survey. If needed, the online survey may be accessed multiple times to complete it; your answers will be automatically saved.

The survey can be accessed at the following web address:

http://www.isalient.com/app/index.php?survey_code=b4de6fc6&login=1

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Camellia El-Antably, Arts Education Specialist at the Wyoming Arts Council, at 307-777-5305 or celant@state.wy.us.

AM:al

Attachment

Western States Arts Federation Annual Survey - Wyoming

**Developed by
Bothell Assessment and Research Services in Collaboration With
the Western States Arts Federation**

Status of Arts Education

Dear Principals,

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to help us understand the status of arts education in your school. Given the economic situation today and to meet the needs of the arts as a core subject as defined in No Child Left Behind (NCLB), we need more data about arts education to share with policy and decision makers.

To that end, the Western States Arts Federation, Wyoming Arts Council/Commission and the Wyoming Department of Education invite you to collaborate with them through completing and submitting this survey.

Information collected through this survey quantifies the status of arts education in your state. All respondents will receive a report showing how your school compares to others, both statewide and regionally.

This is an important time to focus on arts education. Research suggests that arts education has a positive effect on emotional intelligence and that graduation rates increase in schools with more involvement in the arts, thereby producing a return on investment for arts education. While arts education studies have shown the positive effects of arts education, there is an absence of consistent data within the field. This survey will allow for your state's agency and department of education to annually measure arts education in your state, providing consistent and credible data for educators and administrators. Thank you for your support and cooperation with this survey.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Laurel Sherman at 303-629-1166 or by e-mail at (laurel.sherman@westaf.org). Or, you may contact the representative from your state listed below.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Anthony Radich – Western States Arts Federation
Ryan Stubbs – Western States Arts Federation
Laurel Sherman – Western States Arts Federation

Status of Arts Education

To complete this survey, you may need the support of others, including arts teachers. The survey will not take long to complete if you gather the necessary information before completing the survey. That is the purpose of the WORD document attachment to the email inviting you to complete this survey. The WORD version of this survey will help you know what information to gather. Print and write your answers on the WORD version. Save the written answers for your records. Then return to this web survey and enter your answers. If you are a principal over more than one school, you will need to repeat these procedures for each school you lead. Thank you for investing your time to make continuous improvement in arts education.

DEMOGRAPHICS

All responses should include data for the 2008-2009 school year unless otherwise specified.

1. School Name: _____

2. School Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. Principal's Name: _____

4. School District: _____

5. Email Address: _____

6. What grade levels are included at your school? (*Mark all that apply*)

Pre-K

7

9

K

8

10

1

11

2

12

3

4

5

6

7. How many art specialists (FTE's, licensed, endorsed and certified with a college degree in the art Form) are teaching at your school? _____

8. How many total FTE faculty are teaching at your school? _____

STUDENT LEARNING

The No Child Left Behind Law (NCLB) recognizes the arts as a core academic subject, alongside mathematics, language arts, science, and several other subjects. The following questions evaluate the arts standing as a core academic subject.

9. In this school, which art form(s) do students study that meet all of the following criteria:

- instruction that follows a sequential and ongoing arts curriculum;
- instruction that is aligned with state or national arts standards;
- instruction that is taught by a certified/licensed and endorsed specialist?

- Visual Art
- Dance
- Music
- Theatre
- None of the Above

10. What is the average number of minutes your students spend studying each art form each week?

<u>ART FORM</u>	<u>MINUTES PER WEEK</u>
Visual Art	_____
Dance	_____
Music	_____
Theatre	_____

11. Are the arts treated as core curriculum in your district?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

12. Are the arts included and clearly articulated in your school improvement plan?

- Yes
- No

13. Are you familiar with the content standards for the arts in your state?

- Yes
- No

14. How many students in total are participating in arts instruction (any art form: Visual Art, Dance, Music, Theatre) in your school this year? _____

15. How often do teachers integrate the arts with other subjects where the art form and the other discipline are taught and the standards of both are addressed?

- Frequently
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never

16. What would be most helpful to improve learning in the arts for your students? *Rank your top 5 by putting a number in front of your selections.*

- _____ Availability of arts curriculum standards
- _____ Availability of more arts supplies or equipment (for any arts discipline)
- _____ Availability of more curriculum materials (textbooks)
- _____ Certified specialist for teaching visual art
- _____ Certified specialist for teaching dance
- _____ Certified specialist for teaching music
- _____ Certified specialist for teaching theatre
- _____ Change in school board and/or administrative policies and procedures
- _____ District arts coordinator
- _____ Facilities and classroom space
- _____ Funding for community and state arts resources
- _____ More flexibility in scheduling
- _____ Planning time with other teachers
- _____ Professional development opportunities
- _____ Training for classroom teachers in arts education
- _____ Training on integrating the arts into other subjects

17. How is student progress in the visual & performing arts assessed in your school?
(*Check all that apply*)

- District developed and required assessments
- State developed and required assessments
- Teacher developed assessments
- No assessment

18. What kinds of co-curricular activities in the arts take place at your school?
(*Check all that apply*)

- Art club
- Instrumental/vocal music performances
- Literary magazine
- Music rehearsals
- Poetry Out Loud
- Organized enrichment/remediation classes in the arts
- Theatre rehearsals/productions
- Other _____

19. What other arts education activities take place in your school? (*Check all that apply*)

- Visiting performing group
- Artists in residence
- Assemblies
- Field trips/museum tours
- Art Parents
- Integrated projects
- Projects with outside arts organizations
- Special projects
- Other _____

20. What is your total student enrollment-across all grade levels-in the following?

School Year	Total School Enrollment	Total Student Enrollment in Visual Art	Total Student Enrollment in Dance	Total Student Enrollment in Music	Total Student Enrollment in Theatre
2006-2007					
2007-2008					
2008-2009					

If you are a secondary school:

21. What is the percentage of your seniors that graduate? _____ %
22. How many elective courses are offered at your school? _____
23. Of the elective courses offered, how many are arts electives? _____
24. What percentage of students are choosing to take arts as their electives? _____

TEACHERS

25. In terms of FTE's, how many of each type of arts teachers instruct in your school who are designated solely to instruction in the art form?

Art form	Highly qualified in your state according to NCLB	Classroom teacher with primary assignment as an arts teacher (elementary generalist)	Unlicensed "technician" with arts expertise (e.g., paraprofessional/prep -time specialists/eminence)	Parent or other volunteer with arts interest or experience	Artist
Visual Art					
Dance					
Music					
Theatre					

26. How many teachers in your school are working on arts endorsements or degrees?

27. Have you lost any FTE arts teacher positions over the last 2 years? How many?

Visual Art _____ Dance _____ Music _____ Theatre _____

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

28. What type of professional development activities in the arts has your staff participated in during the last year? How many attended?

	# of Arts Specialists	# of Other Teachers	# of Administrators
School Workshop			
District Workshop			
University/Community College Workshops			
National Conferences			
State Arts Council/Commission Workshops			
State Department of Education/Office of Public Instruction Workshops			
Instruction or Mentoring from Professional Artists			
Workshops Offered by Arts Organizations			
Other (please specify):			

29. Are you familiar with the teacher professional development activities in the arts offered by your state arts council/commission?

- Yes
 No

30. How do you receive information about arts education (Visual Art, Dance, Music, Theatre)?

- State Department of Education/Office of Public Instruction
 State Arts Council/Commission (including their listserv)
 Conferences
 District Arts or Curriculum Coordinators
 Listservs
 Professional Journals
 Other? _____

Please specify the listserv, conference or journal you refer to if possible:

31. What incentives may teachers in your school/district receive for participating in professional development activities in the arts? (*Check all that apply*)

- Release time
- Compensation
- Credits for recertification
- Credits toward Compensation (lane changes)
- None

32. How many paid hours a year are devoted to collaboration among teachers in your school (e.g. professional learning communities)?

- Among arts specialists (Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, Dance) _____
- Arts specialists with teachers of other disciplines _____

SPACE AND RESOURCES

33. Which art form in your school has a designated room/space appropriately designed and equipped for teaching solely that art form?

- Visual Art Yes No
Dance Yes No
Music Yes No
Theatre Yes No

34. Does your school have theatre/performing space with appropriate lighting and sound, etc.?

- Yes No Unsure

35. Are you familiar with these offerings from the state Arts Council/Commission?

- Artists Residencies
- Grants
- Professional development
- Artist directories/rosters
- Technical assistance

36. Did your school receive money for arts education in the last year from any of the following other than the State Department of Education? *(Mark All That Apply)*

	None	\$1 -\$499	\$500-\$999	\$1,000 - \$4,999	\$5,000 - 9,999	\$10,000 - 14,999	>\$15,000
PTA/PTO							
Grants from the state arts council/commission							
Local arts councils							
Other grants							
Individual contributions (parents, grandparents)							
Businesses							
Foundations							
District							
Transfer of funds within school budget							
Fund raisers specifically for the arts							
Donations in kind							
Board of Cooperative Education Services							
Other							

37. If you did receive money that was used for arts education, please indicate where you distributed that money. *(Mark All That Apply)*

- Arts field trips
- Arts assemblies
- Arts materials, supplies, equipment, instruments
- Release time/collaborative learning time
- Professional development for teachers in the fine arts core
- To hire a full-time arts specialist
- To hire a part-time arts specialist
- Development of sequential arts curriculum
- School trust lands
- Other (please specify)

38. Does your school/district have multi-year partnerships/collaborations with artists/arts companies or cultural organizations that help meet your school/districts arts education goals?
- Yes
 - No

If yes - please list up to three of those artists/companies/organizations:

39. What is your greatest obstacle to utilizing arts education resources, such as artist in residence, arts projects? *Select all that apply.*
- Competing priorities (e.g., testing, remediation)
 - Time in the school day
 - Insufficient or inappropriate space/facilities
 - Budget constraints
 - Lack of information on available programs
 - No obstacles
 - Other? _____

40. If students have NOT traveled outside the building for an arts exhibition, performance or event what have been the barriers? *(Check all that apply)*
- Time out of school day
 - Transportation costs
 - Event/Activity entry fees
 - No barriers
 - Other? _____

41. Please provide any further comments you think will be helpful to our understanding of arts education in your school.