



Research Facts Sheet: The Arts Rich School

From USA, 1999: *Gaining the Arts Advantage: Lessons from School Districts that Value Arts Education* (pp.9-14)

The arts-rich school offers:

- Arts access for all and a learning continuum in the arts
- A commitment to providing a basic education in the arts to every child
- The arts are acknowledged as a strong component in an interdisciplinary curriculum in the elementary years
- A continuum of learning in and through the arts that follows through sequential coursework
- Senior pathways in the arts to enable tertiary matriculation.

Specialised Curriculum and Culture of Excellence:

- A wide range of specialised programs for students of the arts
- An environment that encourages students to aspire to excellence
- Students that demonstrate commitment to their work and win praise and recognition
- Student achievements that contribute to community enthusiasm for the arts
- A belief in the excellence and quality of the school's educational system.

Collaborative Practice:

- Teams of classroom teachers, arts specialists and teaching artists working together on building curricula, delivering instruction, and learning from each other
- The use of varied approaches in the classroom including: arts specific subjects, arts integration, teaching artists programs, and industry residencies.

Leadership:

- Arts specialist teachers creating and sustaining sequential arts education



- District arts coordinators who mobilise community support for arts education through budget priorities, interschool communication, and community partnerships
- Principals who create high expectations, and whose support for arts education is unswerving.

Planning, Research and Advocacy:

- A comprehensive plan for incremental implementation of arts education
- A school district and state-level resource commitment to facilitating arts education
- Ongoing data gathering about arts integration, productive pedagogies, teacher engagement strategies, and student achievement.

Community Partnerships:

- Community members (parents, families, artists, art organisations, local civic and cultural leaders) are given the opportunity to actively engage in the school arts education programs
- Community involvement is the most critical factor in sustaining arts education in schools.