



FYI FROM DPI

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Arts Education Makes a Difference

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction's arts education efforts, including its partnership with and support for the nationally recognized [A+ Schools Program](#), strengthen learning and change students' lives. Just listen to Claire Hudspeth, a student at A+ School Reynolds High (Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools):

"I actually have a learning disability of dyslexia, so being able to use different methods of integrating arts into my studies has helped me to understand the subjects a lot better. It's a way that I can digest the material and understand it better than just reading about it and trying to figure it out on your own. You really have a tangible thing you can touch and work with and learn from."

"Integrating the arts helps me understand my subjects."

Claire, Senior, Reynolds High School



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1995 by the Kenan Institute for the Arts, the A+ Schools Program began with 25 public schools serving students in Pre-K through the 12th grade. The program has now grown into a network of 50 public schools, both charter and traditional.

See a map of the 50 A+ Schools [here](#) and hear from more students, parents, and teachers about the value of A+ Schools [here](#).

NCDPI has two staff members who support arts education for NC's 1.5 million public school students, including those in the A+ Schools Program network. NCDPI activities include:

-- Analyzing [enrollment data](#) proving that approximately 96% of all the state's elementary students are engaged in music instruction, 92% are involved in visual arts instruction, and approximately 78% of all 2015 graduates took at least one arts course during high school.

-- Jointly creating the NC Pre-Service Arts Integration Initiative - a K-16+ collaboration between NCDPI, NCDCCR, K-12 arts educators, and higher education representatives focusing on best practices for pre-service teacher and administrator preparation;

-- Partnering with other statewide leaders to secure North Carolina's place among 10 states in the country that are receiving a [State Policy Pilot Program grant](#) of \$10,000 a year through 2017 from Americans for the Arts;



-- Continuing the state's rich history of cultivating the



Established
in

highly selective [NC Governor's School](#); best and brightest arts and music students through the

-- Ensuring NC's involvement as one of the first five states in the country to create a statewide plan to increase student access to arts education;

-- Creating a statewide Arts Education Think Tank to develop tools and instructional resources to support the *NC Arts Education Essential Standards*; and

-- Partnering with public and private groups to provide instructional resources, virtual meetings and tools, and professional development for approximately 6,000 licensed arts educators and support for all K-12 teachers and students for arts education, arts arts integration, and arts exposure.

For more information, visit the [NCDPI Arts Education](#) website.