

**Joint Resolution No. 19-55
San Mateo County Board of Education
and
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools
State of California**

Endorsing the Declaration of the Rights of All Students to Equity in Arts Learning

Whereas, the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools acknowledges that arts learning – which includes dance, music, theatre, and visual and media arts – is an essential part of a comprehensive education for all students in grades Pre-K-12 to prepare them for college, career and life; and

Whereas, arts learning promotes critical thinking and problem-solving skills, supports overall academic achievement and nurtures skills that will help all students in San Mateo County succeed in school and in life; and

Whereas, the Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools recognize particular groups of students experience significant barriers to access, participation, and success in arts learning and these barriers are directly linked to historical, persistent, and pervasive inequities in our educational system; and

Whereas, we do adopt this declaration as follows:

Declaration of the Rights of All Students to Equity in Arts Learning

1. The right to equitable access to pre-K-12 free, coherent and sequential standards-based arts learning that is part of the core curriculum and that provides both integrated and discrete visual and performing arts learning opportunities; and the right to equitable outcomes as a result of this access, without distinction on account of race, culture, language, religion, national origin, geographical location or legal status.

Every student in San Mateo County has the right to participate and succeed in high-quality courses in all the arts disciplines as part of their basic education, regardless of their background, culture, language or place of residence.

2. The right to special protection for every student's artistic and aesthetic development. The right to protection from policies and practices that exclude or preclude certain students or populations from equitable access to and success in powerful and coherent arts learning pre-K-12.

All students have the same right to fully develop their creative potential at every grade level and to not be excluded for any reason.

3. The right to arts learning that is culturally and linguistically responsive and relevant, with particular attention to those populations that have traditionally been excluded or precluded, such as students who are English learners, students of color, students in foster care, students experiencing homelessness, students in poverty, students from migrant families and students who have special needs.

All students have the right to engage in arts education that reflects, respects and builds on their culture, language and background.

4. The right to arts learning programs in every school, district, and community that are funded and supported with the necessary resources – including qualified administrators, teachers, teaching artists and other staff; adequate materials; and appropriate facilities – to support powerful culturally and linguistically responsive arts learning.

All students have the right to receive the resources they need to be successful in their arts studies in dance, music, theatre, and media and visual arts, including the right supplies and facilities and especially qualified teachers and curriculum that honors all cultures and languages.

5. The right to educators, leaders and parents/community who are knowledgeable about the intrinsic and extrinsic benefits of arts learning for individual students, families/communities, the nation and global society.

All students have the right to be supported by leaders in their community and school who understand the benefits of an arts education to prepare them for college, career, and life.

6. The right to be brought up in school and community environments that value and protect the arts and equity as essential to the full development of every student and that demonstrate those values/beliefs in their public policies and practices.

All students have the right to learn and practice the arts in a positive environment where everyone understands and acts on the knowledge that they are engaging in valuable and important work.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools recognize the powerful impact an arts curriculum has in the cognitive and social development for every student and its role as an essential component of a comprehensive education; and

Be It Further Resolved that the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools adopt this declaration and support the implementation of San Mateo County Office of Education's Visual, Performing, and Media Arts Strategic Plan.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Passed and Adopted on this
Twentieth Day of November 2019

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

President

