

## **NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELEASES THIRD *ANNUAL ARTS IN SCHOOLS REPORT***

### *Schools Continue to Make Progress in Increasing Student Arts Participation*

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein, and Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate D. Levin today announced the release of the third *Annual Arts in Schools Report*. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of arts education in New York City public schools that includes citywide data on student participation in arts programs during the 2008-09 school year. The report shows that arts education has remained a priority to school leaders even in difficult economic times, with schools expanding access to arts programs at all grade levels. Last year, 60 percent of elementary schools offered programming in all four art disciplines (music, theater, dance, and visual arts), an increase of 15 percentage points over the 2007-08 school year. In 2008-2009, 63 percent of middle schools reported that all of their eighth-grade students fulfilled requirements by completing at least one half-unit in two arts disciplines, as required, up from only 29 percent two years earlier. High schools continued to provide students with numerous opportunities to study the arts, with 84 percent of schools offering instruction in two arts disciplines and 51 percent offering three, up from 79 percent and 38 percent, respectively, in 2007-2008. The City developed *ArtsCount* in 2007 to provide greater accountability and transparency for arts education. The report's findings will be used by administrators and school leaders to continue supporting arts instruction in City schools.

“This report is clear evidence that our approach to improving arts education in New York City public schools is working. We are assessing instructional gaps and providing targeted support to schools that need it,” Mayor Bloomberg said. “We understand our work is far from finished, but we are heartened by the progress our schools have made in providing more of our students with the rich and rigorous arts education they need and deserve.”

The third *Annual Arts in Schools Report* shows that while schools have made progress, they must continue to work to meet New York State arts requirements. Last year, arts specialists and partners provided annual arts instruction in the four art forms to all grades in roughly 12 percent of elementary schools, up from eight percent in 2007-2008 and four percent in 2006-2007. This year, for the first time, the *Annual Arts in Schools Report* also tracked delivery of arts instruction in elementary students' home classrooms, as allowed by State requirements. With home classroom instruction accounted for, 39 percent of schools met the State's requirement of providing instruction in all four art forms to every student in every grade. At the middle school level, 63 percent of schools met State requirements, a 16-point increase from 2007-2008 and a 34-point increase over compliance levels in 2006-2007, the year before *ArtsCount* was implemented.

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“The progress we’ve achieved over the last few years is a direct result of our ArtsCount accountability measures,” Chancellor Klein said. “Our principals understand the value of arts education and have continued to invest in certified arts teachers and make arts programs available to their students even in tough times. When we removed restrictions from arts funding to give principals more flexibility over how to spend their dollars, there were those who worried that it would mean the end of arts education in our schools. We’re pleased to see that that’s not the case.”

“The results of this year's *Annual Arts in Schools Report* demonstrate a commitment from school leaders to provide quality education in culture and the arts,” Commissioner Levin said. “The Administration's focus on tracking arts programming and collaborating with the City's cultural community gives us invaluable information about where we’re succeeding and where we need to work harder to provide all New York City public school students with a strong arts education.”

“The Department of Education has made great strides in supporting the development of rich arts cultures in our public schools,” said Jason Duchin, DreamYard co-executive director and Advisory Council for Arts Education member. “Schools increasingly have access to tools that will make it more likely that every child in our City will have access to a quality arts education. It is our hope that one day soon even more of New York City’s schools will have developed a comprehensive arts program that supports their students’ educational growth.”

“The arts are a vehicle to open up the hearts and minds of our young students,” said Jayne Capetanakis, principal of PS 69 in Brooklyn. “Even in these times of tight budgets, arts education remains a priority for us. Our dedicated arts teachers collaborate with our cultural partners to provide visual arts and music instruction to all students. Our classroom teachers build theater assemblies into their literacy programs. Our school community also joins together for multicultural dance performances, which have become a cornerstone of our monthly Family Fun Nights. This dynamic combination allows every child to receive arts instruction and to cultivate an appreciation of the arts.”

The main findings of the 2008-09 *Annual Arts in Schools Report* include:

- 99 percent of elementary schools offered at least one arts discipline provided by arts teachers and cultural organizations in the 2008-2009 school year, up slightly from 97 percent in 2007-2008 and 98 percent in 2006-2007.
  - 96 percent of elementary schools offered at least two arts disciplines
  - 85 percent of elementary schools offered at least three arts disciplines
  - 60 percent of elementary schools offered four arts disciplines

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- 97 percent of middle schools offered at least one arts discipline, up slightly from 96 percent in 2007-2008 and 92 percent in 2006-2007.
  - 83 percent of middle schools offered at least two arts disciplines
  - 61 percent of middle schools offered at least three arts disciplines
  - 36 percent of middle schools offered four arts disciplines
- 84 percent of high schools offered instruction in at least two arts disciplines, up from 79 percent in 2007-2008 and 76 percent in 2006-2007.
  - 51 percent of high schools offered at least three arts disciplines
  - 23 percent of high schools offered four arts disciplines

Despite tighter budgets, schools have not significantly or disproportionately cut spending on arts instruction. Average per capita spending on the arts increased slightly from \$311 per student in 2007-2008 to \$316 in 2008-2009. Prior to the 2007-08 school year, Project Arts funding was earmarked for the sole purpose of funding arts programs. Last year, the total amount of money schools spent on arts education represented five times the value of the Project Arts allocation.

Additionally, the number of certified arts teachers working in City schools continued to grow. Between 2004-2005 and 2007-2008, the number of certified arts teachers increased by 11 percent, with an additional three percent increase from 2007-2008 to 2008-2009.

The Department of Education uses several approaches to enhance access to and participation rates in arts education. These include:

- working to ensure greater participation in the Annual Arts Survey. In 2008-2009, the response rate was 94 percent, representing 1,403 schools, compared to the 2007-08 response rate of 91 percent (1,307 schools) and the 2006-2007 response rate of 75 percent (939 schools);
- investing in creating Arts Education Liaisons in schools. Last year, more than 1,200 Arts Education Liaisons assisted principals in planning arts instruction, developing cultural partnerships, and completing the Annual Arts Survey;
- offering technical assistance and support to every school. In 2008-2009, more than 700 schools accepted and received help in implementing arts programming; and identifying schools needing significant improvement in arts education programs and providing those schools with targeted support services such as visits to best practice sites, seminars on budgeting and scheduling, and professional development around the *Blueprints for Teaching and Learning in the Arts*—a research-based approach to arts instruction implemented under Children First.

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Department of  
Education

Joel I. Klein  
Chancellor

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Click [here](#) to for the complete 2008-2009 *Annual Arts in Schools Report*. Individual school reports can be found on school Web pages using the [Find a School](#) feature.

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