

States have spent years building data systems to measure students' progress and assess their needs from preschool to career. Yet little is known about the condition of arts education — a subject that most states require every student to take in at least one grade level.

The Statewide Data Infrastructure Project for Arts Education, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Education Commission of the States, aims to bridge this information gap by offering tools and technical assistance to help states extract, analyze and report on critical data about arts education.

With information states already collect at state, district and local levels, they can measure progress toward their goals and inform important decisions about arts education — described here in three broad categories:

Who has access to arts instruction in schools?

What percentage of students have access to arts instruction? In states that require universal access, are districts and schools fulfilling the requirement?

Which of the arts disciplines — dance, theater, music, visual arts or media arts — do these students have access to?

Is access to education in each of the arts disciplines consistent across grade levels? Do districts offer students a pathway that spans their school careers, so that students who thrive in arts at one grade level can continue taking arts courses in later grades?

Who participates in arts instruction?

What percentage of students participate in arts instruction? In states that require students to take arts courses, are all students fulfilling the requirement?

What percentage of students participate in instruction in each of the arts disciplines?

Does participation differ among grade levels?

How many qualified arts teachers are there, and who has access to them?

What percentage of arts teachers are certified or have recommended endorsements in the specific arts subject they teach? Does the percentage differ by specific arts discipline?

What percentage of students who take arts classes have access to such teachers?

What are the average class sizes or student/teacher ratios by arts discipline?

For more on what states can do to promote better information collection and dissemination of arts education data — and to learn more about the Statewide Data Infrastructure Project on Arts Education — see the full report, [*Using State Data Systems to Report Information on Arts Education*](#).