

SPEAKING UP ON ARTS EDUCATION

 2018 ANGLOPHONE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

ARTSLINK NB REVIEWS K-12 ARTS EDUCATION



#ARTMATTERSNB

WELCOME!

Welcome to the arts education project! You are part of a province-wide effort to investigate and advise on access to arts education in the K-12 school system. We're hoping to reach as many people as possible through town hall consultations on **March 12th in Saint John, March 13th in Fredericton, March 14th in the Miramichi, and March 15th in Moncton**. We've also made two online surveys; one for teachers and one for everyone else. We'd love your help encouraging broad participation in the town halls and in the online survey. We hope to reach everyone with an interest in how arts education can support the development of New Brunswick's students and contribute long-term to the economic and social prosperity of the province. This toolkit is designed to equip you with some helpful talking points and information to encourage your community or colleagues to participate.

GOALS OF THE ARTS EDUCATION PROJECT

Gather information through hosting community town-halls and online surveys;

Paint a vivid picture of current **access** to arts education in NB: Find out what is working, what we can make better, and who is or isn't able to access arts education;

Discover the best practices at work in similar jurisdictions, including the NB Francophone k-12 school districts;

Prepare a report based on statistics from the department of education, and information gathered during town hall consultations and from online surveys, as well as best practices;

Present the report's findings in a new set of follow-up town halls and outreach this coming fall;

Recommend and launch pilot projects based on the report findings. Help more New Brunswick students access arts education no matter where they live in this province.

WHY NOW?

Our provincial government has recently launched an ambitious ten-year education plan, *Everyone At Their Best*. There is momentum for change and genuine interest in the success of NB students, and we believe access to arts education is integral to that success.

TALKING POINTS FOR OUTREACH:

“Improve literacy skills for all learners.”

Media literacy is vital in the modern world; it is the difference between knowing what is an advertisement or fake news versus credible, dependable information. Young people are subject to thousands of images and bits of information on a daily basis, but are rarely equipped with the skills needed to judge the validity of what is being represented. Through developing an understanding in their arts education courses of how images and patterns are constructed, what and how they communicate, and what value systems they promote / sell, students can develop visual and media literacies.

“Foster leadership, active citizenship and an entrepreneurial mindset.”

Studies in theatre, music, and dance can provide students with opportunities for directing, collaborating, advocacy, and entrepreneurship. **The heart of entrepreneurship is creative problem solving:** imagining a solution that doesn't already exist to fix a current problem; the ability to imagine is a skill fostered in learning through the arts. Branding and selling are both increasingly dependent on storytelling and compelling leadership. Knowing how to create a narrative, a skill learned through the arts, is integral to the success of business in a contemporary landscape.

“Ensure all learners value diversity and have a strong sense of belonging”

Accessing and participating in making the arts help us to see ourselves in our world, something essential to retaining our youth and attracting newcomers. Participation in the arts can enhance students' sense of personal worth and accomplishment as well as of membership in a community. Appreciation of shared stories and representations can enhance a sense of identity; and the imaginative leaps, identification, empathy, and re-positionings required to create art projects can assist in the development of what psychologists call “theory of mind,” an essential building-block for understanding, appreciating, and supporting diversity.

“Ensure all learners develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to continually adapt to, and thrive in, their environment.”

The arts teach creative problem solving. Whether the project is making a painting, designing a stage set, playing a musical work, choreographing or executing a dance, or acting a dramatic role, students involved in arts projects are constantly asked to review and revise, adapting to changes or unforeseen developments in media, physical space, instruments, and their co-performers.

These talking points and policy objectives are near and dear to everyone involved in the arts education project, but they also resonate with our friends and colleagues who may not realize how important the arts are to the long-term success of our youth.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ARTS EDUCATION PROJECT?

Head to: <https://www.artslinknb.com/arts-education/>

**Contact ArtsLink NB Staff and the
steering committee:**
edu@artslinknb.com

