



ARTS EDUCATION RESEARCH INITIATIVE

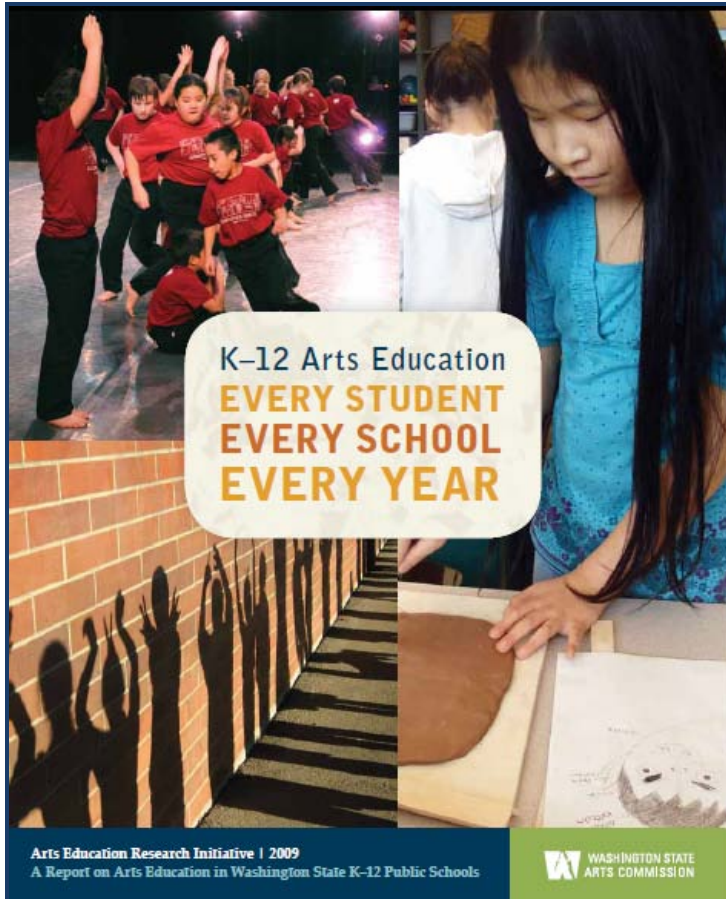
K-12 Arts Education
EVERY STUDENT
EVERY SCHOOL
EVERY YEAR

Measuring the Status of Arts Education
in Washington State Public Schools



WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION

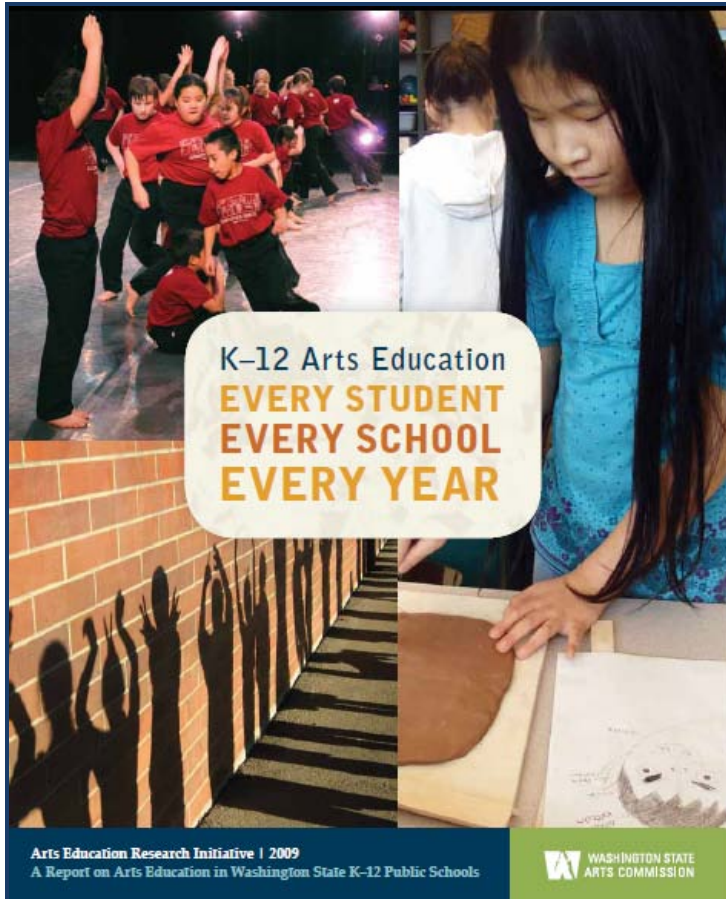
Every Student, Every School, Every Year



“The arts can help students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively.”

– *Arne Duncan,*
U.S. Secretary of Education

Every Student, Every School, Every Year



Though the arts are recognized as a core academic subject in Washington State and across the nation, K-12 arts education is fraught with inequities.



AERI – Rationale

Current Status:

- WA has good arts policy
- There is a gap between policy and practice

Needs:

- Students need more & better arts education
- Education stakeholders and policy makers need more & better data to collectively work towards this goal



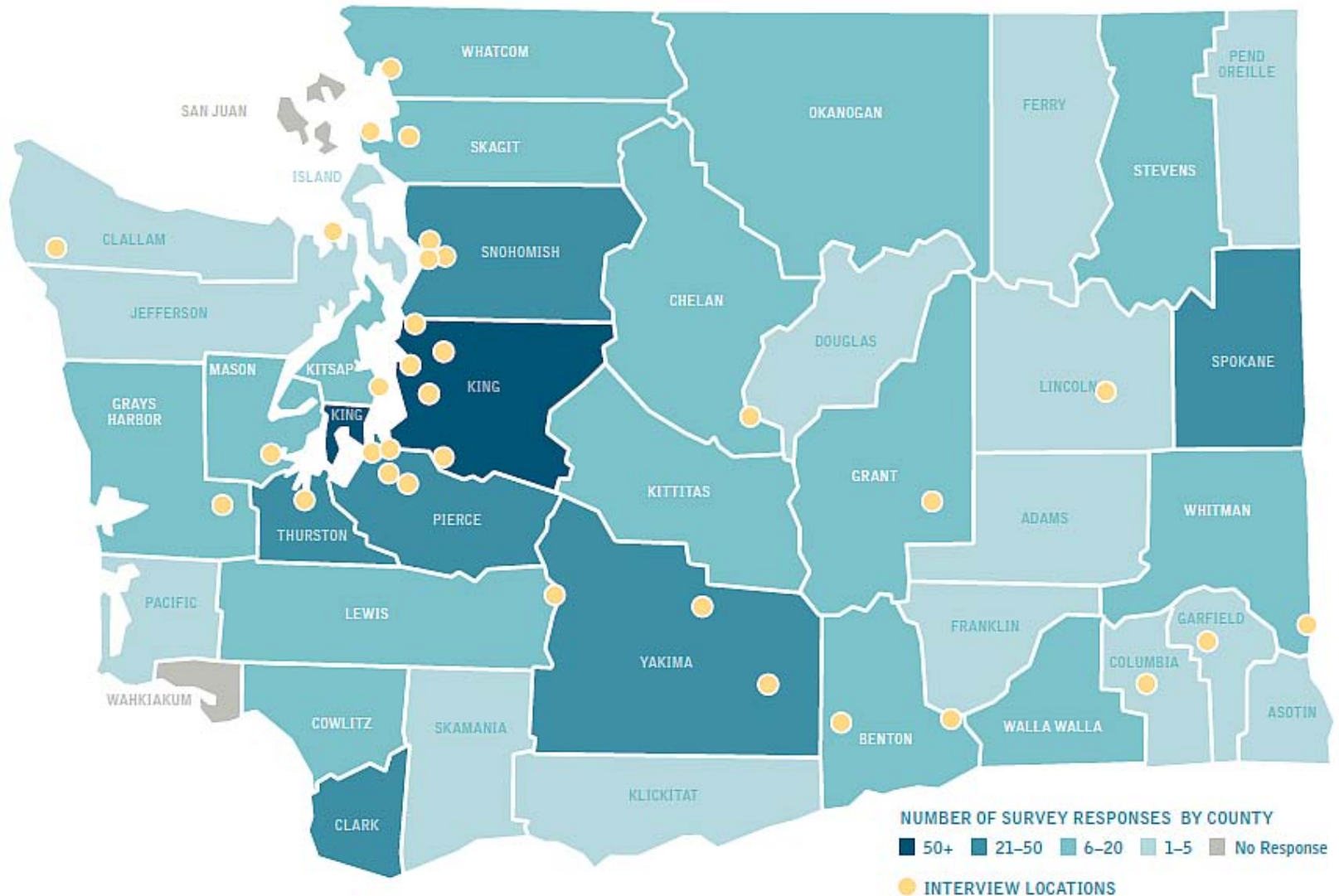


Primary Areas of Inquiry

- Frequency and Intensity of Instruction
- Curriculum
- Assessment
- Staffing and Professional Development
- Collaboration with Arts Organizations
- Funding



Survey Demographics





Findings

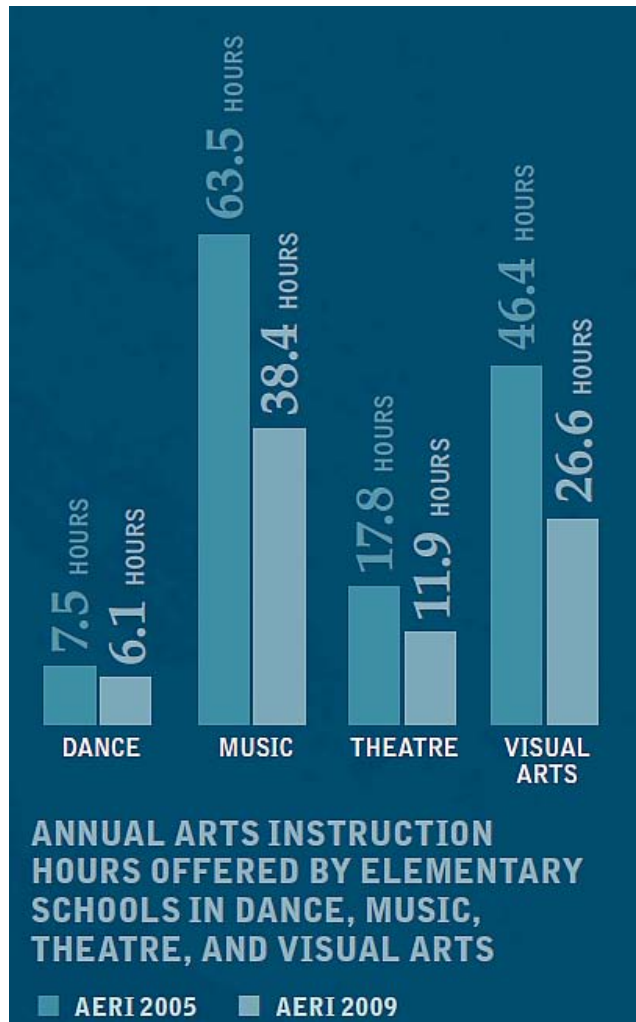
- ❖ 33% of elementary students are getting an average of less than one hour of arts instruction per week
- ❖ 47% of schools offer instruction in only of the four primary arts disciplines
 - ❖ 8% of elementary schools and 4% of secondary schools provide formal arts instruction in all four arts disciplines
 - ❖ 34% of 8th graders attend a school where there is no instruction in visual arts



Findings

- ❖ 63% of principals are dissatisfied with the quantity of arts education in their schools
- ❖ 42% of principals say statewide testing gets in the way of meeting arts learning goals
- ❖ 9% of schools offer no formal arts instruction

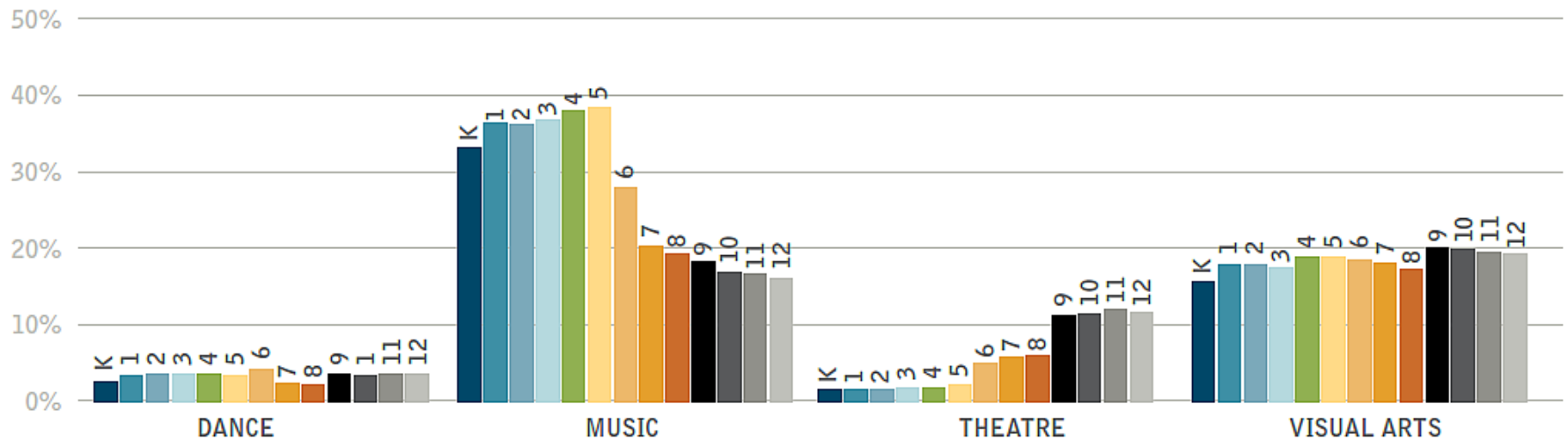
Availability of Arts Education



- Decrease in K-6 hours since 2005
- Focus on state testing a possible influence

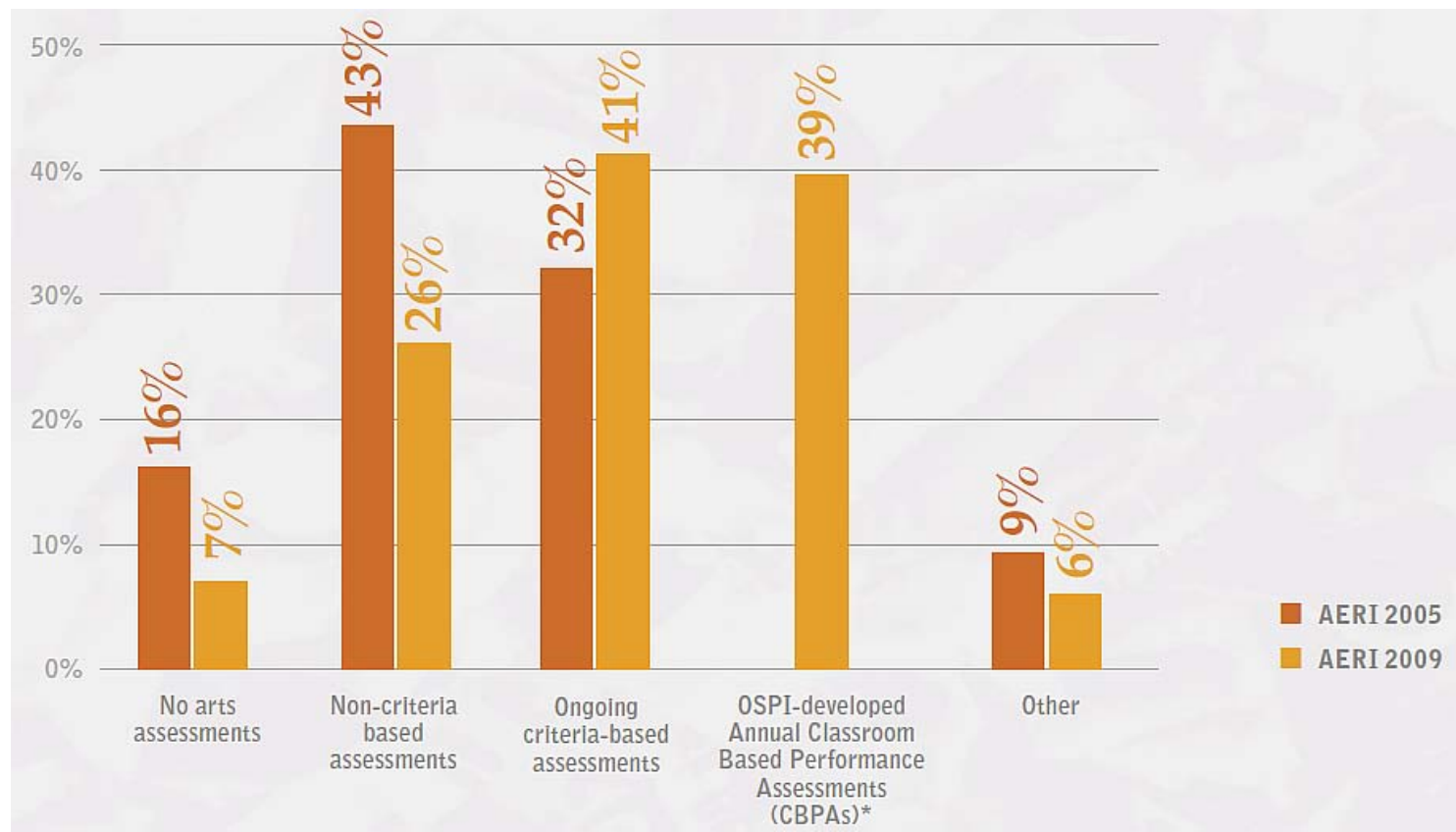
Arts Curricula

- Disciplines and grade levels with *written* curriculum
- At best: 40% for upper elem. music



Arts Assessments

Since 2005, significant change in assessment practice:



The Middle School Challenge

- WA is below the national average of numbers of 8th graders taught by FT arts specialists
- Most districts in WA do not require any arts credits at the middle school level

EIGHTH GRADERS WHO WERE TAUGHT BY A FULL-TIME ARTS SPECIALIST IN MUSIC AND VISUAL ARTS NAEP 2008 v. AERI 2009

MUSIC



VISUAL ARTS



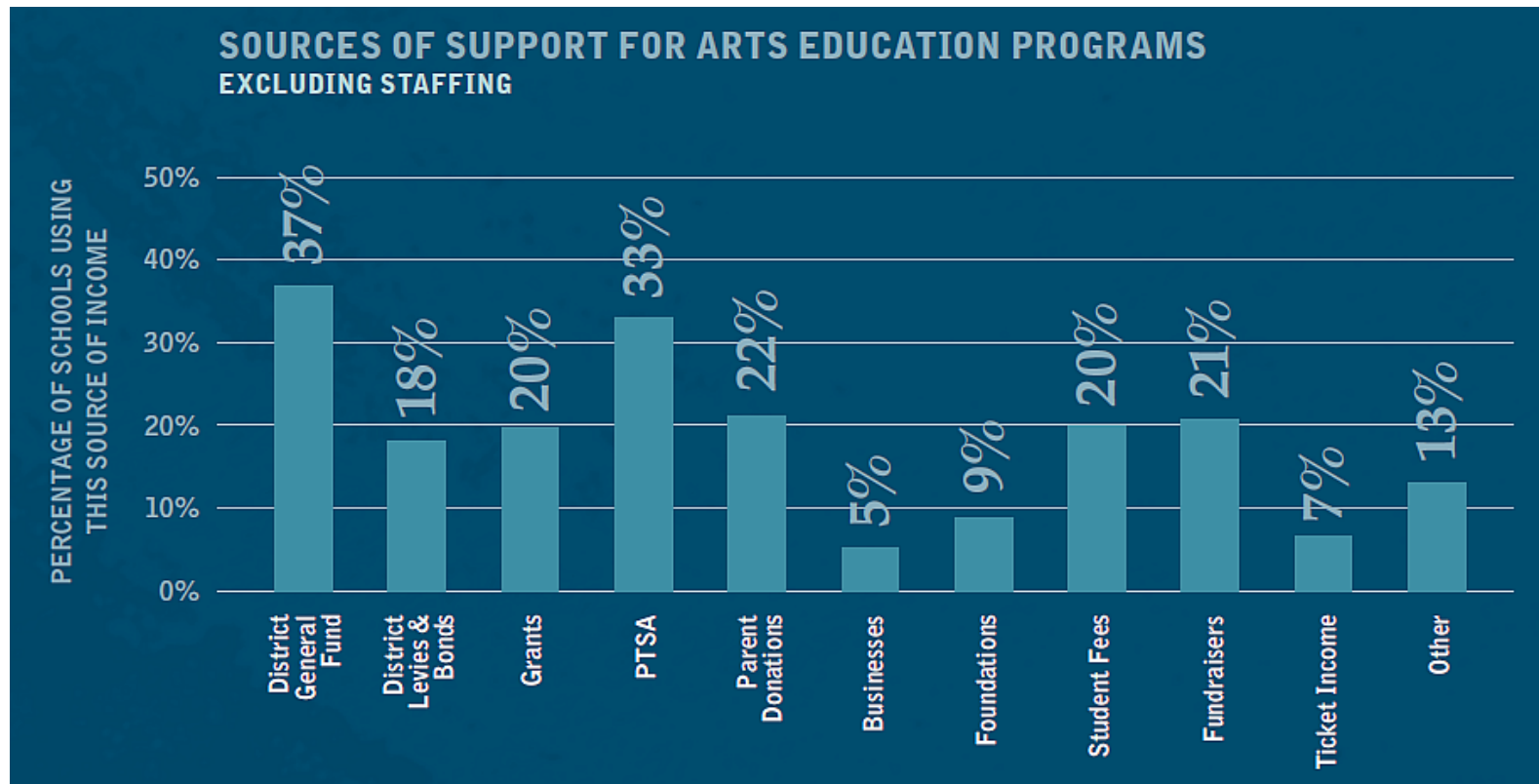
Staffing

- Arts teachers account for an average of 6% of school's teaching staff
- Average FTEs:
 - ▣ Music = 1.16
 - ▣ Visual Arts = .71
 - ▣ Theatre = .12
 - ▣ Dance = .05



Funding

District funds are most common and most important, but limited; many other funding sources are required.





Markers of Quality & Action Agenda



MARKERS OF QUALITY

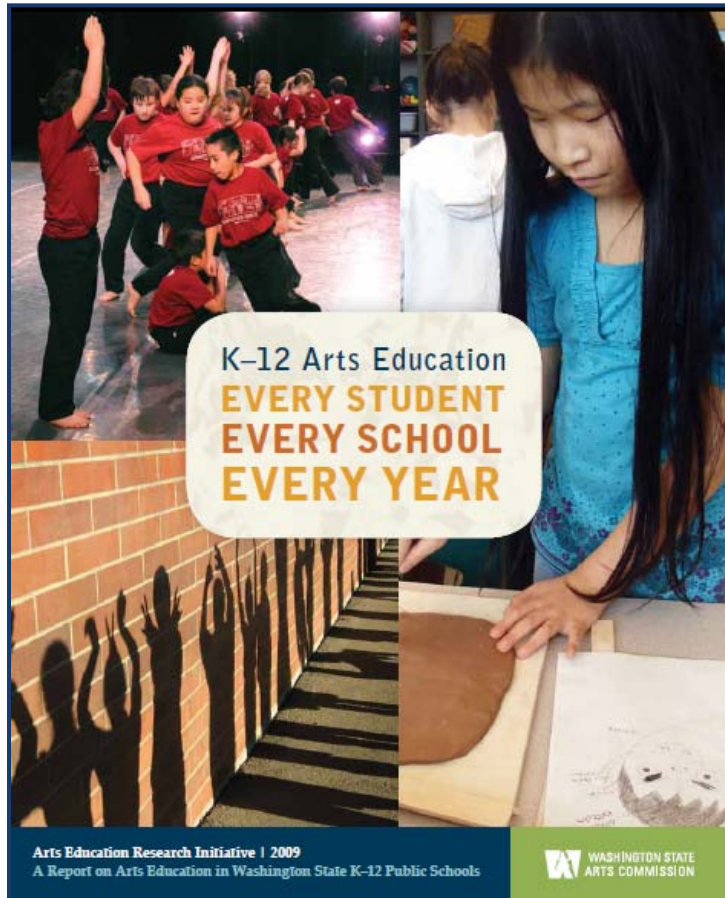
- Elements of Effective, Sustainable Practice
- Examples of Best Practices
- Yard Stick



TAKE ACTION

- Practical options for moving forward
- Best next steps vary from district to district
- Everyone can play a role

From Research to Action



- What's going on locally?
- Catalyst for conversation
- Work needs to be done at all levels



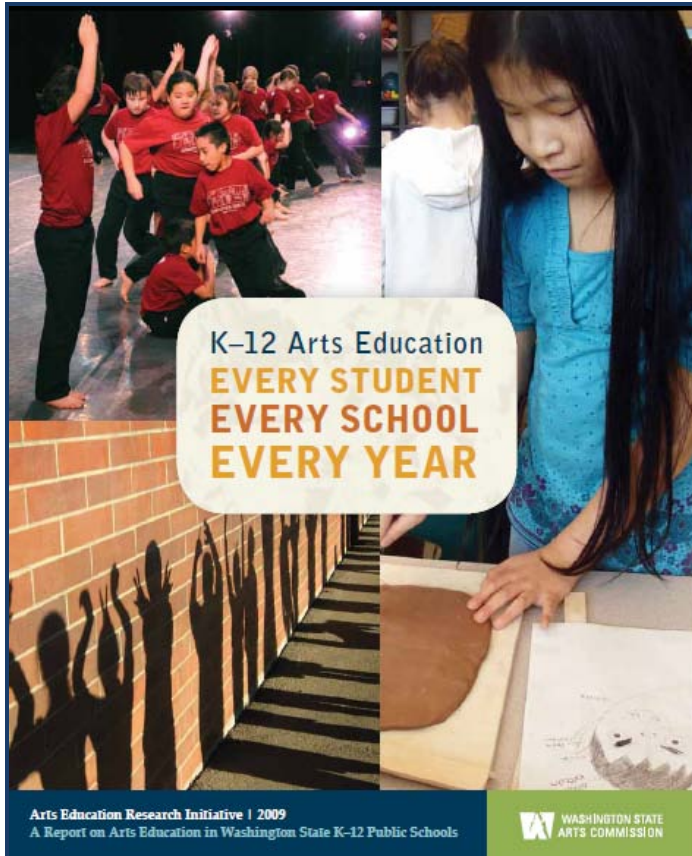
Key Arts Education Partner



www.artsedwashington.org

A nonprofit organization devoted specifically and exclusively to advancing and increasing arts education in K-12 schools.

More Information:



www.arts.wa.gov/education/aeri.shtml

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