

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the state of Washington recognizes the arts as an essential element of a balanced education for all students; and collaboration, creativity and critical thinking are increasingly understood as essential skills needed in the 21st century workforce; and

WHEREAS, learning through the arts enables students to express their unique stories through many mediums, languages and perspectives; and encourages children, youth, and educators to look for connections and broader meaning; and

WHEREAS, arts education helps students develop problem solving skills, experience belonging and cross-cultural understanding, and supports interdisciplinary academic success; and

WHEREAS, the arts help close the opportunity gap for students, preschool through high school, by supporting the development of social emotional skills alongside academic content through joyful online, remote, and in-home learning at this transformative time; and

WHEREAS, while it is difficult to teach virtually, arts educators, who are accustomed to adaptability and ingenuity, are doing an incredible job of ensuring that families have access to physical and digital arts materials and relevant curriculum; and

WHEREAS, many schools facing budget shortfalls may prioritize subjects like reading, writing and math, arts education through theatre, visual arts, media arts, music, dance, are included in rigorous and relevant core academic content; and

WHEREAS, equitable access to culturally responsive arts education is sustained by a wide range of partners, including school leadership, educators, families, teaching artists, arts organizations, and local and statewide organizations; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the professional and innovative efforts of arts educators and advocates around the state and call for community leaders to continue to strengthen efforts that increase access to inclusive arts education for every student, regardless of geographic location;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2021, as

Arts Education Month

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 30th day of April, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee

