

Considering the Arts  
as  
We Reopen New  
Mexico's Schools

A Position Statement  
of the  
New Mexico Advisory Council on Arts Education  
on behalf of  
Arts Educators & Students

NM

advisory  
Council on arts  
education

NMACAE

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- The Council is a consortium of arts educators, museum educators, arts administrators, and professional artists who represent the Visual Arts, Music, Dance, Theatre, and Media Arts.
- Our membership comprises representatives from school districts across the State—both large and small—and arts organizations including the Santa Fe Opera, the Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program, and many others.
- Our purposes include advocating for quality arts education for all New Mexico students, and advising the Secretary of Education and the Public Education Department.

# The NMACAE asks for consideration for the following:

- The Arts are essential for
  - Students' social-emotional health
  - The teaching of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity
- The Arts must be considered as part of any school reentry plan.
- The Arts will require unique insight in any reentry plan, insight that is best provided by Arts teachers and Arts administrators.
  - Meaningful Arts instruction can occur in all of the arts in online, blended, and Face-to-Face scenarios.
- Multiple studies that look specifically at the teaching of the Arts in a pandemic are currently underway. We ask that you take their results into consideration. Of particular note is research underway at the University of Colorado supported by the NFHS in conjunction with NAFME, CBDNA, and 57 other organizations:  
<https://bit.ly/2LZOKlE>
- Arts teachers are among the most creative and innovative educators, and they can adapt instruction and learning to any reentry model: traditional, blended, virtual.
- The Arts are a vital part of New Mexico's history, culture, and economy. Their inclusion in districts' reopening plans is imperative, perhaps more now than ever.

# We thank you for your time and attention.

The New Mexico Advisory Council on Arts Education considers itself a partner with the State Government, Public Education Department, school districts, teachers, students, and parents, and it stands ready to assist, discuss, and find solutions with you during these unprecedented and difficult times.

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