

## **Title: Arts Education in the Mix**

**Objective:** To ensure that all students across Massachusetts receive a well-rounded education by including measures of arts education participation in Massachusetts's accountability and assistance system.

### **WHY:**

#### **Student Engagement:**

Research has shown that arts education develops student motivation and engagement, including improved attendance, persistence, focused attention, heightened educational outcomes, and intellectual risk taking.

*“The most important thing that the kids learn is a sense of efficacy, that understanding that if they try, if they do not give up, they will get better. That is an essential experience students have in arts classes” – Principal*

#### **Postsecondary Readiness:**

Arts education helps students develop the skills they need to be successful in college and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace, such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, dealing with ambiguity and complexity, and collaboration and team work skills.

*“We assigned roles to each other: project manager, PowerPoint person, equipment manager and other ones. When we had different ideas, we tried to find neutral ground. If we had disagreements, we learned how to convince each other. This is what we will have to do in real life.” – 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students discussing a collaborative marketing and design project*

#### **School Climate:**

Arts education can be a powerful driver of school climate and culture. The arts enhance relationships between teachers, students, families, and the community, creating new connections, fostering collaboration, and increasing school pride.

*“In the first year of turnaround, when I agreed to the arts team hosting an art show, I saw the power of the arts as a tool to transform the school. Parent engagement was so low we didn't really think we would fill the space. But people came out in droves. That was the turning point. The art show opened the door to a lot of conversations we needed to have with parents and that door has stayed open” – Principal*

**WHAT: Participation in arts courses during the school day measured as an indicator of student success and school quality.**

**Elementary and middle schools** receive a rating based on percentage of students participating in arts classes during the school day.

*\*Example data:*

School Name	% of Students Receiving ANY Arts Instruction	% of Students Receiving Weekly, Year-Long Arts Instruction
Elementary School A	100%	100%
Elementary School B	100%	100%
Middle School A	75%	52%
K-8 School A	87%	75%
K-8 School B	100%	100%

**High schools** receive a rating based on percentage of students completing the MassCore arts requirement, defined as one year of an arts program.

*\*Example data:*

School Name	% of Students Receiving ANY Arts Instruction	% of 2014 graduates fulfilling the one course requirement in the arts
High School A	65%	58%
High School B	90%	68%
High School C	80%	67%

All individual schools receive ratings, which then roll up into district wide ratings.

*\*Example data is actual data de-identified from the 2016 annual BPS Arts Expansion Survey*