



## ARTS FOR A COMPLETE EDUCATION (ACE)

### 2010-2011 Legislative Request

**Please support the long-established State partnership for Arts for a Complete Education (ACE) at \$200,000 in the FY 2010-2011 Florida Department of Education budget.**

### History of Funding from State and Number of Students Benefitting

Since 1989, the State of Florida has funded Arts for a Complete Education (ACE) through the Florida Department of Education in the amount of \$100,000–\$310,000 each year. Since its inception, more than 4,000,000 students have benefitted from this statewide work through direct and indirect interaction with ACE programs and services.

In FY 2009-2010, the State appropriation is \$145,584, reduced by 56% from its 2004 – 2005 appropriation of \$310,000. However, this funding has helped ACE build an infrastructure which, in turn, has leveraged additional national recognition for Florida and funding at the rate of fifty cents for every dollar in 2009-2010.

### State Funding Is A Catalyst for Public/Private Partnerships for Arts Education throughout Florida

ACE is a collaborative public/private partnership among the Florida Alliance for Arts Education; Florida Department of Education; Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs; Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; 26 Network Partners, Florida-county-based alliances; statewide professional education and cultural associations; and hundreds of volunteers throughout Florida communities.

### National Recognition

Many state-funded ACE collaborative programs received national recognition from the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, National Endowment for the Arts, National School Boards Association, and National Symphony Orchestra.

### This annual state ACE appropriation is critical to

- **Cultivate Arts Education Initiatives** through unified forums that connect schools and communities;
- **Identify and Develop Exemplary Arts Education Practices** that ACE recognizes and disseminates as models for replication in schools and communities throughout the state;
- **Impact Arts Education Teaching and Learning** through curriculum materials, e.g., a Web site for middle-school students to explore careers in the arts at [www.exploringartscareers.net](http://www.exploringartscareers.net);
- **Build leadership skills** in over 1,500 teachers and school administrators for greater effectiveness to teach through the arts and guide arts education opportunities for student achievement;
- **Increase public awareness of the value of arts education** to student engagement, learning and achievement both within and outside of school, and the importance of arts education to the development of Florida's 21<sup>st</sup> century innovative and creative economy;
- **Establish local community partnerships** through the development of Network Partners throughout Florida to advance arts education learning opportunities for all Florida students.

### Arts Education Vital to Student Achievement & Florida's Creative Economic Future

- **Student Achievement:** Data from the Florida Department of Education shows that student indicators of success increase for students in direct correlation to the number of years in which a student is enrolled in school dance, music, theatre, and visual art courses.
- **Jobs:** According to Dun & Bradstreet January 2009 data, there are over 48,585 arts-related businesses in Florida that employ over 176,880 people.
- **Workforce Readiness & Global Competitiveness:** According to the National Center on Education and the Economy *Tough Choices or Tough Times, The Report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce*, the state's and nation's competitiveness will be based in the 21<sup>st</sup> century on its workers' ability to innovate. Arts education is a vital component mentioned in this report. The arts in the schools teaches and engages students to develop critical thinking skills: synthesize diverse information and innovate; develop self-discipline; and deal with challenges creatively to overcome barriers to success. Creative thinking is best cultivated through a rich curriculum of arts instruction to prepare students for the workforce.

### For additional detailed information:

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