

Alameda County

Alameda County Office of Education

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“The arts are vital to our well-being, to help us find moments of joy and beauty, and to spark creativity and collective expression, especially during this very difficult pandemic time. While there are many urgent needs, we continue to support the arts, especially for those confined to homes and other spaces where human connections are limited. I am so proud of the long-standing commitment from Alameda County Office of Education and its partners to advance arts integration to provide a well-balanced education for every child, in every school, every day. Now more than ever, we persist in our efforts to creatively engage our communities in impactful solutions and strategies that work.”



- L. Karen Monroe, Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

The Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) is a champion for creative and purposeful education that supports the whole child. Public education is vital to a thriving California and helps shape the outcomes for our state. An essential aspect of reshaping education in California is to ensure adequate funding for public education, that includes providing all students access to arts education. Today's students are California's future. The arts are a bridge to engaging success for students chronically failed by our public education system. Learning in and through the arts is key to accessing and manifesting



students' creativity, hope, imagination, skills, knowledge, and solutions for the complex problems faced by our communities and society.

Our Students Deserve More

Alameda County Superintendent of Schools L. Karen Monroe and 18 Alameda County District



Superintendents have organized around the call for adequate funding for public education.

California ranks among the bottom ten states in per-pupil funding. When the state fails to invest in public schools, students suffer. Art and music programs disappear. Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) are pared back to the minimum levels required under the law. Visit "The State of School Funding in California" for an overview of the issues and some possible solutions leaders in Alameda County are highlighting.

<https://www.acoe.org/funding>

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Creativity is Not Optional!

CREATE Alameda County is the regional partner of CREATE CA. CREATE CA is a coalition of the California Department of Education, the California Arts Council, the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), the California PTA, and the California Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership. CREATE Alameda County and CREATE CA partner to create a unified message and a local and statewide movement for arts education to ensure that every student has access to a high-quality education. This partnership is focused on elevating the powerful work of communities like ours to activate a groundswell of support in every pocket of California. By 2022, our vision is that each and every child in the Bay Area is successfully engaged in creative and active learning, both in and out of school, in preparation for college, career and community life. Since 1999, CREATE Alameda County (formerly the Alameda County Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership) has been involving individuals and organizations with a collective mission to engage young people in the arts and creative expression to advance equitable, comprehensive and inspired learning within and beyond schools.

Empowering Educators to Creatively Meet the Learning Needs of Each and Every Child

The Integrated Learning Specialist Program is a trans-disciplinary set of courses that envisions and nurtures new paradigms for teaching and learning. This program leverages tools and strategies that cultivate emergent dispositions and provokes new thinking about the role of the arts in education. Working collaboratively in inspired learning communities, participants investigate new pathways for creativity and examine and critique established norms and interrupt systems of inequity, promoting social justice and invention to build a better future for everyone. To date, 2,130 administrators, teachers,



and teaching artists have transformed their practice in the Integrated Learning Specialist Program (30%

- administrators, 50% - K-12 teachers, 20% - teaching artists). <http://www.integratedlearningacoe.org>

Whole School Transformation Through the Arts

ACOE's Integrated Learning Department supports networks of educators that have participated in the *Integrated Learning Specialist Program* and are transforming school culture, classroom practice and student learning through arts integrated practices and strategies. This work is happening across the county at ACOE arts integrated demonstration sites.

Principal Leadership Network

The purpose of the *Principal Leadership Network* is to connect school leaders as resources to each other, to learn from collective experience, and to share the wisdom of this network of school site leaders, who are transforming teaching and learning at their sites through arts-centered, integrated learning. At the core of their work, this group of leaders from ACOE arts integration demonstration sites shares best practices of Integrated Learning in leadership and social justice, to inform and improve the public education field. This is a research-based model in collaboration with UC Berkeley's Principal Leadership Institute. Through this partnership we are looking at school site outcomes in teaching and learning through the lens of Integrated Learning, to better understand how this work can support the kinds of courageous leadership our students need and deserve to thrive into the future.

Teacher Leadership Network

The Teacher Leadership Network is a collegial peer community for teacher leaders and site-based arts specialists at ACOE Demonstration School sites. This groups focus is to build off this supportive network designed to help participants identify and develop sustainable systems that bond, activate, and strengthen whole school practices through immersive, arts-centered integrated learning. Our continued goal is to support teacher leaders to learn from each other so that they can be instrumental in creating a thriving learning community at their sites for all students, and build capacity for strategic connections to other educational, whole-school initiatives and their local communities.