

San Bernardino County

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

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“ I am proud of the focus by schools and districts across San Bernardino County on the importance of providing a variety of arts education opportunities for the 406,000 students who attend our public schools. Numerous studies show the strong correlation between academic achievement and rigorous arts education programs. The arts continue to be a strong draw for many students in their day-to-day motivation in attending school and thriving in their educational pursuits. ”



– Ted Alejandre, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS)

San Bernardino County school districts' and schools' arts education is supported by SBCSS's *Arts Connect Initiative*. SBCSS supports the county's districts through development of strategic arts education plans, providing professional learning that supports standards-based teaching and learning in the arts, encouraging advocacy efforts that promote all students' equity and access to arts education, and through working with partners to build a vibrant arts enriched county community in and out of school.

SBCSS provides site specific professional learning, open regional professional learning programs, and opportunities for students to demonstrate and share their arts learning. SBCSS partners with Riverside, Inyo, Mono, and San Bernardino (RIMS) California Arts Project (RIMS CAP), the California Subject Matter Project for Arts Education, to design and implement the two avenues

of in-depth and ongoing professional learning assistance. The professional learning programs expand teachers' capacities to support their students' arts learning, academic English language development, and creative development.



SBCSS provides customized professional learning community (PLC) support aligned to the new California Arts Standards and the districts' specific arts education needs, goals, and LCAP priorities. SBCSS provides professional learning for single subject, career arts, and multiple subject teachers to meet all learners' needs in the arts through Universal Design for Learning and

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strengthening teachers' arts knowledge, skills, and pedagogy. For the past twenty-seven years,

SBCSS and RIMS CAP have facilitated quarterly Arts Education Network (AEN) gatherings to provide arts education updates, foster collaborations, resources, and sharing of community opportunities. AEN sessions are held in various locations to provide access to all areas of the county. SBCSS has a long history of providing countywide showcases of student learning in the arts. Through collaborations with the county universities, arts educators, community arts venues, and RIMS CAP students have opportunities annually to share their learning in dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts through county honor bands, orchestras, a performing arts showcase, and a juried visual art gallery event. These are held in historic and professional arts venues, and families, community members and officials, and the public is invited to celebrate the artistic learning and accomplishments of our county students.



SBCSS works closely with the *Arts Connection: Arts Council* for San Bernardino County to

provide experiences and generative dialogue at the intersection of art, education, community development, and economic development. Artists, educators and organizers meet regularly to explore and identify county interconnections and opportunities for taking empowered collective action in the county, region and local communities. SBCSS provided two workshops on arts education at the annual Arts Connection's conference. SBCSS is an active member of the *Arts Connection's* Creative Pathways: Regional Start Up

efforts to support, advocate, and engage community building through the arts. Current conversations center on expanding after school arts' opportunities for the county's students, provide support for the county artists that wish to work with students, increasing the visibility of the county's artistic and cultural assets, and to engage the existing and emerging underground arts groups. *Arts Connection* Board Members and representatives attend the SBCSS Arts Education Network meetings to stay updated on schools arts education programs and needs and to inform arts educators and administrators about the council's upcoming activities, initiatives, and support available.

SBCSS *Arts Connect Initiative*, holds two student events for middle and high school arts students.



The *Young Artists' Gallery* (YAG) is a juried exhibition for visual arts students from throughout the county. The second student event is the *Celebration of the Performing Arts* that features small and large student ensembles in Dance, Music and Theatre.

SBCSS and the San Bernardino County Music Educators Association partners hold six county honor bands, elementary through high school, and three county honor orchestras, elementary through high school. Music students enrolled in music classes are eligible to be part of the honor bands and orchestras. Three choral festivals take place throughout the county, one for elementary



schools choirs, one middle and high school choral festival in the high desert and one in the west end of the county.