

Stanislaus County



In the vibrant heart of Stanislaus County, the arts are a dynamic force driving positive change and fostering creativity, making them an essential thread in each student's learning journey. As the Arts Lead for Region 6, Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) is committed to weaving the arts into the fabric of education, making them an essential thread in the tapestry of each student's learning journey. Every child deserves the transformative experience of arts education, an experience that goes beyond the confines of a classroom and resonates throughout their lives. As such, SCOE is dedicated to the mission of making arts education and arts experiences an integral part of every child's daily life.



- **Scott Kuykendall, Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools**

Stanislaus County Office of Education ■ Contact: Amy Bultena, abultena@stancoe.org

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY AND EDUCATIONAL ARTS ADVOCACY

Advocacy fuels change. From district-level advocacy to creating dedicated arts spaces, SCOE champions the cause of arts education, offering targeted toolkits to empower educators. Recognizing the pivotal role of informed leaders, SCOE collaborates with districts to prioritize and support arts education, actively engaging with community arts organizations to foster collaboration, and sponsoring activities for students, educators, and the community to witness the transformative power of the arts.

SCOE stands as a beacon of exemplary leadership in arts education, having paved the way with a visionary strategic arts plan. Going beyond a one-size-fits-all approach, SCOE extends its expertise to assist districts across the county in crafting their own strategic arts plans. SCOE actively supports districts in navigating the intricacies of Prop

28 funding, facilitating planning sessions, conducting community member surveys, and engaging in empathy interviews with students and teachers.

ONGOING ARTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

Educators are vital creativity catalysts, and providing them with ongoing arts integration and discipline-specific professional development is a priority. With an average of seventy annual professional development instances for Region 6 educators, SCOE ensures equitable access through in-person, online, and district-specific options. Each opportunity delves into the California Arts Standards and Framework, offering detailed guidance on delivering arts education. Emphasizing experiential learning, SCOE incorporates hands-on arts opportunities into all workshops. In this manner, these efforts ensure that educators, too, are lifelong learners in the ever-evolving world of arts education.

PROVIDING AND SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ARTS EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

SCOE is dedicated to showcasing student and educator talents through a series of events. Each fall, SCOE hosts the Art of the Educator show, celebrating the creative endeavors of educators and educational support personnel. February brings the Student Photography Show for grades 6-12. March marks Youth Arts Month, with SCOE hosting the Student Art Showcase for grades UPK-12, complemented by district performing arts performances. In collaboration with Great Valley Museum and Modesto Area Partners in Science, SCOE organizes a student art show tied to scientific themes. These events serve as platforms for students to shine, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment crucial to their overall growth and well-being.

Maker Hoopla is a free event held in a social environment that encourages families to explore the wonders of creative learning together. The event stands as a testament to SCOE's unwavering

commitment to fostering creativity and hands-on learning experiences. This annual event transforms education into a creative adventure for students in grades UPK-8. With activities carefully curated to inspire building, constructing, creating, designing, and exploring, Maker Hoopla sparks the flame of curiosity in each participant. This event embodies the belief that education should extend into the community, and that learning should be a joyous journey of discovery.

GROWING LOCAL ARTS PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration is key to sustainable arts education experiences for students, and SCOE partners with local arts organizations to bolster the arts. For the past thirty years, Gallo Center for the Arts and SCOE have partnered to support the Youth Education Stage (YES) Company. YES Company provides ongoing, after-school, and summer musical theatre education to students. Each summer, around eighty students collaborate to put on a full Broadway production. The historic State Theatre in Modesto enriches education by offering the Youth Education Program (YEP), featuring ten California Standards-aligned performing arts shows annually for school day field trips. SCOE supports YEP by aligning local curricula with State Standards and promoting the program to districts. Through meaningful partnerships,



SCOE is able to create a network that uplifts arts education throughout the community.

INCLUSIVE CREATIVITY AND CULTURAL EMPOWERMENT

In Stanislaus County, educators are not just teaching art, they are nurturing inclusive practices that promote transformative creativity. Over 20% of residents in Stanislaus County were born outside of the country, and 77 different languages are spoken by students in county schools. SCOE recognizes this diversity as an asset and strength. Through art education, the rich tapestry of cultures that make up the community are upheld, respected, supported, and celebrated. The arts workshops, programs, and curricula created by SCOE are designed to reflect the cultures represented in local and global communities, foster cultural empowerment, and celebrate the beauty of diversity. From dance programs offering Folklorico, student Mariachi bands, projects exploring the cultures of recent Afghani refugees, to artworks addressing societal challenges, the arts in Stanislaus County are a tool for change, a means to shape a brighter future.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF ARTS

The emotional needs of students are ever-growing, and the commitment to arts in service to health and wellness must go above and beyond education and the school day. SCOE designs strategies, workshops, and programs to support social and emotional health. Workshops and grants target the arts as a powerful tool for students' social-emotional competencies. Acknowledging the importance of educators' wellbeing, SCOE hosts quarterly "Art for Wellness" sessions, allowing any educator to attend and create art

supporting their own mental health. SCOE is proud to be a provider of trauma-informed artmaking to students in alternative education and juvenile justice settings. Students receive weekly trauma-informed artmaking sessions from a certified trauma-informed arts facilitator wherein they engage in process-based, hands-on artmaking designed to support their social and emotional needs. These artmaking sessions provide students with a necessary and compassionate space to explore their experiences, feelings, and desires for the future. SCOE strives to provide solace, and cultivate positive relationships through these many forms of creative expression.

ACTIVITIES THAT SPEAK VOLUMES

Art is a universal language that brings communities together. In Stanislaus County, arts education is not just a program; it's a movement committed to shaping well-rounded individuals who are not just academically proficient but also creatively empowered. The art practices, workshops, and programs in Stanislaus County are not just about creating beautiful pieces; they are about positively impacting youth. As the Region 6 Lead in arts education, SCOE is not only setting standards; we are raising the bar, ensuring that every child in the county has the opportunity to unleash their creative potential, contribute to their community, participate in the transformative power of the arts, and thrive in a world that values them.

