“It is inspiring to observe our students engaged in the creative process. Our students indicate they find personal and academic value learning about and expressing themselves through a variety of artistic forms. This is why YCOE continues to support and celebrate the arts as an essential component of our instructional program.”

– Garth Lewis, Yolo County Superintendent of Schools

Yolo County Office of Education
Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE) advocates for and encourages arts instruction for students throughout the county. The arts are an essential academic component in all students’ education.

YoloArts
A key partner in this advocacy is the nonprofit organization, YoloArts, the county arts council. YoloArts has been working with schools throughout the county to provide standards aligned art instruction in public schools, specifically targeting those schools with high populations of socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

YoloArts provides art education for YCOE’s Court and Community Schools and Special Education programs. YoloArts’ Teaching Artists work with students at Dan Jacobs and Cesar Chavez Community School in Ceramics, Aztec dance, painting, drawing, photography, digital art, film, hiphop/poetry and other media as interest is expressed by the youth. Youth art works are showcased at the Juvenile Detention Facility throughout the year and we hold an annual art show in the community at the end of the school year for all students to celebrate their creativity.
Through our partnership, we place Teaching Artists in classrooms for students with significant emotional needs, students with multiple disabilities, and students with autism as well as our Deaf & Hard of Hearing and Adult Living Skills programs. These Teaching Artists work with the classroom teachers and students to provide a variety of creative explorations in different media. This year, the Horizon students have been working with a teaching poet to create their own poetry book.

The Countywide Visual and Performing Arts programs and YoloArts’ programs served almost 3,000 students last school year. These ongoing opportunities include:

- **Artists in Schools** is an artist-in-residency program in the ceramic arts. Students in grades K-6, guided by local professional artists, learn the science, history and technique of ceramic art. Students create, learn to critically reflect on, and exhibit their artwork. This program is YoloArts’ longest running artist-in-residence program in Yolo County.

- **ArtMix** is an artist-in-residency program featuring local professional artists. Participating school sites select a visual or performing arts discipline for school-wide focus during the 6-12 week residencies. Students gain confidence as well as the opportunity to develop, apply and fine-tune artistic skills. Each residency culminates in a final art exhibition or performance, and many partner schools choose to install a student created public art work (often a ceramic or painted mural) at the school.

- **Seeding Art for Change**, an art and agriculture based curriculum provides five weeks of in classroom arts instruction that leads up to a farm field trip order to connect school children to Yolo County’s agricultural heritage and its central role in our economy.

- **Exposure** is an artist-in-residence program designed to take the students out of the classroom to participate in cultural experiences. We provide students with an introduction lesson to prepare them for their field trip, a field trip to the Crocker Art Museum or the Mondavi Center, and a final in class art lesson inspired by the activities on the field trip.

- **Poetry Out Loud** is a statewide poet project that culminates in a national recitation contest for high school students and is administered in Yolo County by YoloArts. Student participants interpret, memorize, and recite three poems within a competition framework that starts in the classroom. The California Arts Council hosts the California statewide competition each spring in Sacramento.