

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 26

Introduced by Assembly Member Davis
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Charles Calderon,
De Leon, Gaines, Krekorian, Price, Silva, and Audra Strickland)

February 18, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to arts education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 26, as introduced, Davis. Arts Education Month.

This measure would declare March 2009 to be Arts Education Month and would encourage all elected officials to participate with their educational communities in celebrating the arts.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Arts education, which includes dance, music,
2 theatre, and the visual arts, is an essential and integral part of basic
3 education for all pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades
4 1 to 12, inclusive; and
5 WHEREAS, The arts are crucial to achieving a state educational
6 policy that is devoted to the teaching of basic academic skills and
7 lifelong learning capacities with the goal of truly preparing all
8 children for success after high school regardless of gender, age,
9 economic status, physical ability, or learning ability; and
10 WHEREAS, A systematic, substantive, and sequential visual
11 and performing arts curriculum addresses and develops ways of
12 thinking, questioning, expression, and learning that complement
13 learning in other core subjects, but that is unique in what it has to
14 offer; and

1 WHEREAS, Pupils benefit from arts learning in the areas of
2 cultural understanding, readiness for learning and creative thinking,
3 cognitive outcomes, emotional intelligence and expression, social
4 interaction and collaboration, and preparation for the workplace
5 and lifelong learning; and

6 WHEREAS, Arts education in California is mandated for pupils
7 in grades 1 to 12, inclusive, by Sections 51210 and 51220 of the
8 Education Code, which provide, in part, “[t]he adopted course of
9 study ... shall include instruction ... in [v]isual and performing arts
10 including instruction in the subjects of dance, music, theatre, and
11 visual arts, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation and
12 the skills of creative expression”; and

13 WHEREAS, The arts are recognized as part of a quality
14 education, and the University of California and the California State
15 University have instituted a policy that includes visual and
16 performing arts as a college preparatory subject for all high school
17 pupils wishing to enter California’s institutions of higher education;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature passed and Governor
20 Schwarzenegger signed into law a landmark investment in music
21 and arts education programs, including a block grant of one
22 hundred five million dollars (\$105,000,000) to support
23 standards-aligned instruction in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12,
24 inclusive; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature also passed and Governor
26 Schwarzenegger signed into law an additional five hundred million
27 dollars (\$500,000,000) to be distributed on a one-time basis for
28 the purchase of visual and performing arts and physical education
29 professional development supplies and equipment; and

30 WHEREAS, In 2007, this ongoing investment in arts education
31 plus a cost of living increase was passed by the Legislature and
32 signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger; and

33 WHEREAS, The Legislature intends this funding to help
34 implement a comprehensive vision for arts education at the local
35 level, to ensure that every pupil in California benefits from this
36 investment; and

37 WHEREAS, This funding is the first step in investing in quality
38 visual and performing arts programs for all California pupils; and

39 WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts education
40 associations hold celebrations in the month of March, giving

1 California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of
2 the arts for all pupils, to foster cross-cultural understanding, to
3 give recognition to the state's outstanding young artists, and to
4 enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum;
5 now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
8 March 2009 as Arts Education Month and encourages all elected
9 officials to participate with their educational communities in
10 celebrating the arts with meaningful activities and programs for
11 pupils, teachers, and the public that demonstrate learning and
12 understanding in the visual and performing arts, and urges all
13 residents to become interested in and give full support to quality
14 school arts programs for children and youth; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
16 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.