

**Introduced by Senator Fuller**

January 27, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 14—Relative to arts education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 14, as introduced, Fuller. Arts Education Month.

This measure would proclaim March 2015 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
- 15 WHEREAS, Pupils benefit from arts learning in the areas of
- 16 cultural understanding, readiness for learning and creative thinking,
- 17 cognitive outcomes, emotional intelligence and expression, social

1 interaction and collaboration, and preparation for the workplace  
2 and lifelong learning; and

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

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

16 WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature passed and former  
17 Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law a landmark investment  
18 in music and arts education programs, including a block grant of  
19 \$105,000,000 to support standards-aligned instruction in  
20 kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature also passed and former  
22 Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law an additional  
23 \$500,000,000 to be distributed on a one-time basis for the purchase  
24 of visual and performing arts and physical education professional  
25 development supplies and equipment; and

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

29 WHEREAS, It is the intent that this funding help implement a  
30 comprehensive vision for arts education at the local level, to ensure  
31 that every pupil in California benefits from this investment; and

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

34 WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts education  
35 associations hold celebrations in the month of March, giving  
36 California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of  
37 the arts for all pupils, to foster cross-cultural understanding, to  
38 give recognition to the state’s outstanding young artists, and to  
39 enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum;  
40 now, therefore, be it

1     *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
2 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
3 proclaims the month of March 2015 as Arts Education Month and  
4 encourages all elected officials to participate with their educational  
5 communities in celebrating the arts with meaningful activities and  
6 programs for pupils, teachers, and the public that demonstrate  
7 learning and understanding in the visual and performing arts, and  
8 urges all residents to become interested in and give full support to  
9 quality school arts programs for children and youth; and be it  
10 further  
11     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
12 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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