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**'ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS MONTH' HIGHLIGHTS ARTS EDUCATION IN  
<<SCHOOL/DISTRICT>> DURING MARCH**

**WARREN, N.J.** – All across New Jersey, schools will host their spring musicals, State and county Youth Art Month exhibitions will display exceptional student work, spring instrumental and vocal concerts are being held and dance recitals will be performed. These activities are all part of “Arts in the Schools Month,” an annual celebration originally proclaimed by the U.S. Department of Education that showcases the accomplishments of students in dance, music, theatre and the visual arts nationwide.

In <<NAME OF SCHOOL/DISTRICT>> the <<NAME OF ARTS DEPARTMENT>> is celebrating Arts in Our Schools Month with the following activities:

- ITEM 1
- ITEM 2
- ITEM 3

<< (CUSTOMIZE QUOTE) “Dedicating a month to arts education gives our students a chance to appreciate how important arts in our schools is,” said XYZ. “These activities not only allow them express themselves, but also reinforce what students learn in other subjects across the curriculum.”>>

Statewide, more than one million students engage in the arts in each year, with statewide arts participation rates reaching 80 percent in 2017—an all-time high. Most encouraging, 99 percent of New Jersey schools representing 99.4% of students provided arts education according to a report from Arts Ed NJ.

“New Jersey continues to build its well-earned reputation as a national leader in arts education, hitting records for participation in all disciplines, including Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Art,” said Robert Morrison, co-director of Arts Ed NJ. “New Jersey is now reaching the point of ‘universal access’ to arts education, largely a result of our state’s thought leaders — school administrators, school board

members and teachers—working in unison to ensure that we provide both the inspiration and infrastructure to achieve participation by all students.”

A recent Rutgers Eagleton Statewide Public Opinion Survey found that nine in 10 New Jersey residents say that receiving an education in the arts — which includes lessons in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, media arts, and other forms of creativity — is “very” or “somewhat” important in the classroom (90 percent), through before or after school programs (93 percent), and through cultural organizations in their community (89 percent).

“It’s important to note that arts education is for everyone, and while most students will go on to jobs outside of the arts, they benefit greatly from the skills, knowledge and discipline they gain by being engaged in the arts. By working to engage all students with high-quality arts education in <<SCHOOL/DISTRICT>>, we are giving our students more opportunities to use their voice of creativity and providing them skills that will help them be successful beyond high school.”

For more information on the state of Arts Education in New Jersey, please visit <http://artsednj.org/2017-arts-education-census/>

Individual school information may be found at <https://artsednow.org/>

Information about the 2017 Rutgers-Eagleton Public Opinion Survey on arts education may be downloaded at <http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu/rutgers-eagleton-arts-education-nj-sept2017/>

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### **About Arts Ed NJ**

*Arts Ed NJ is the unified voice for arts education in New Jersey. Formerly the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership, Arts Ed NJ was founded in 2007 by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, New Jersey Department of Education and Music for All Foundation with additional support from the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation. The mission of Arts Ed NJ is to provide a unified voice for a diverse group of constituents who agree on the educational benefits and impact of the arts, specifically the contribution they make to student achievement and a civilized, sustainable society. Additional information is available at [www.artsednj.org](http://www.artsednj.org).*

### **About Arts Ed Now**

*Arts Ed Now is a statewide campaign to increase active participation in arts education in all schools in New Jersey. Studies show that students who participate in arts education do better in school and in*

*life. Unfortunately, not all NJ students have the access or information to increase their participation in arts education. The Arts Ed Now campaign identifies ways to increase participation in arts education and garner public support to put a spotlight on the issue - and is designed to be customized at a local grassroots level for more impact. The "Campaign Central" website <https://artsednow.org> features stories, tools and ways for citizens to become better ambassadors - together. This project is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Geraldine R Dodge Foundation, Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)*