

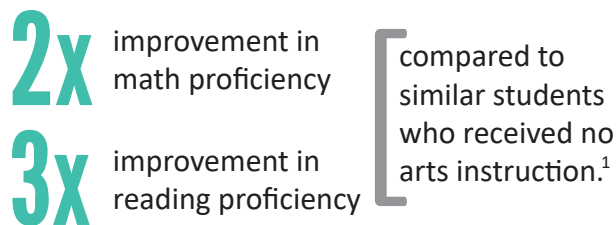
# ARTS CONNECT HOUSTON

## THE PROBLEM

Arts education in Houston ISD is historically inequitable. As recently as last school year, nearly 20,000 of the district's highest need elementary schoolers received no arts opportunities in their schools despite state law defining the arts as a required core academic area. This fact is particularly shocking in light of clear data that demonstrates student performance and engagement improves when they are provided access to the arts.

## THE BENEFITS OF AN ARTS-RICH EDUCATION

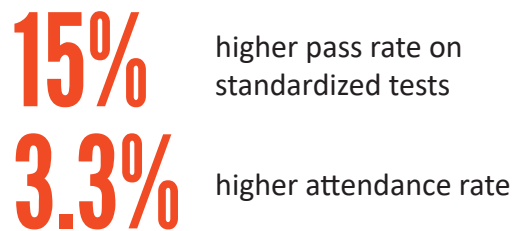
A 2015 national study showed that students in low-performing schools who received significant arts instruction saw a



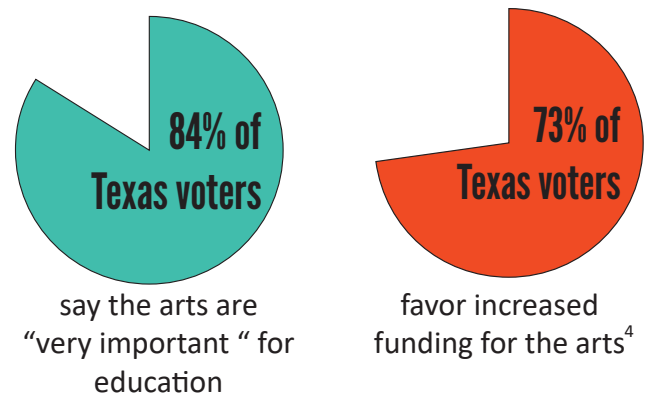
A 2019 HISD study found that students who participated in arts experiences showed

- **improved writing achievement**
- **reduced number of disciplinary infractions**
- **enhanced school engagement and college aspirations**
- **increased compassion for others<sup>2</sup>**

Students enrolled in arts courses have a



than students who take fewer arts courses.<sup>3</sup>



## A HOPEFUL VISION FOR THE FUTURE

HISD is making progress to ensure all Houston students can receive the powerful benefits an arts-rich education provides. As a part of the 2019-2020 HISD Strategic Priorities, Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan called for an expansion of fine arts education throughout the district. Thanks to this vision, all HISD elementary students will receive arts instruction from at least one certified fine arts teacher starting in 2019.

One teacher is just the beginning. **To ensure a complete education for all Houston's young people and a bright future for our city, we need leaders who understand the power of the arts as a core academic area and will prioritize the expansion of arts education for all our students.**

1. Sara Ray Stoelinga, et al. "Final Evaluation Report: Turnaround Arts Initiative," President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, 2015, <http://turnaroundarts.kennedy-center.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/BAH-Full-Evaluation-Report.pdf>

2. Daniel H. Bowen & Brian Kisida, "Investigating Causal Effects of Arts Education Experiences: Experimental Evidence from Houston's Arts Access Initiative," Research Report for the Houston Independent School District 7, no.4 (2019)

3. "2019 State of the Arts Report," Texas Cultural Trust, 2019, <http://txculturaltrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/658131-Texas-Cultural-v2-Pages.pdf>

4. Ibid.