

FACT SHEET

The National Art Education Association (NAEA), founded in 1947, is the leading professional organization for art educators serving 20,000 active members at pre-kindergarten through grade 12 levels as well as college and university professors and researchers, administrators, and museum educators. Other members include parents, students, retired educators, arts councils, schools—and others concerned about the critical role of the arts in teaching and learning. Members are located throughout the 50 states plus the District of Columbia, U.S. Possessions, most Canadian Provinces, U.S. military bases around the world, and 25 foreign countries. NAEA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates through a network of affiliated organizations.

The Association believes that all students deserve a comprehensive, balanced and sequential program of instruction in the visual arts. Further, the Association believes that the art curriculum should be led and taught by teachers who are certified and qualified in the visual arts and designed to provide students with skills and knowledge in the arts in accordance with national, state and local standards. Art educators are encouraged to strive toward rigorous standards and efficacy in pre-service preparation, ongoing professional development, pedagogy, ethics and inquiry in the field.

The mission of NAEA is to promote art education through professional development, service, advancement of knowledge, and leadership. In order to fulfill this mission, NAEA provides expertise, training, and resources that support professional growth and leadership, helping members affect the quality of student learning in their local schools, communities, and states. To advance its mission, the Association partners with local, state and national education associations, government agencies, foundations and corporations toward addressing the following four goals:

1. **Learning** - NAEA will plan, coordinate and implement exemplary professional development initiatives that build member capacity to be effective educators, leaders, and advocates for art education.
2. **Community** - NAEA will build a more cohesive professional community among art educators, museum art educators, and artists through enhanced communication strategies.
3. **Advocacy** - NAEA will effectively communicate the importance of student learning and lifelong learning in the visual arts to art educators, policy makers, parents, and the community.
4. **Research and Knowledge** - NAEA will increase its value to members by assessing programs and services that inform practice, and by expanding access to information on current research and emerging policy issues that affect art education.

NAEA publishes books and other resources useful in curriculum planning, classroom applications, research, and assessment, as well as flagship periodicals including *Art Education*, *Studies in Art Education* and *NAEA News*. Services include the National Art Honor Society, educator recognition programs, an annual convention, co-sponsored professional development institutes, and an awards program that annually recognizes over 100 outstanding art educators and exemplary art programs in states, regions, and the nation.

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