

## **U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan on Arts Education**

- “This Arts Report Card should challenge all of us to make K-12 arts programs more available to America’s children and youth. Such programs not only engage students’ creativity and academic commitment today, but they uniquely equip them for future success and fulfillment. We can and should do better for America’s students.”  
-- June 15, 2009, statement in response to release of National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in the Arts.
- “In June, we received the 2008 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in the Arts results for music and the visual arts. I was reminded of the important role that arts education plays in providing American students with well-rounded education. The arts can help students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively. These qualities can be especially important in improving learning among students from economically disadvantaged circumstances.”  
-- August 2009, Letter to school and education community leaders
- “Let us build a law that discourages a narrowing of curriculum and promotes a well-rounded education that draws children into sciences and history, languages and the arts in order to build a society distinguished by both intellectual and economic prowess. Our children must be allowed to develop their unique skills, interests, and talents. Let's give them that opportunity.”  
-- September 24, 2009, remarks on developing an ESEA Reauthorization proposal.

## **President Barack Obama on Arts Education**

- “I'm calling on our nation's governors and state education chiefs to develop standards and assessments that don't simply measure whether students can fill in a bubble on a test, but whether they possess 21st century skills like problem-solving and critical thinking and entrepreneurship and creativity.”  
– President Obama, Remarks to Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, March 10, 2009
- “Maybe it's just one standardized test, plus portfolios of work that kids are doing, plus observing the classroom. There can be a whole range of assessments.”  
-- President Obama, Southwest High School, Wisconsin, June 11, 2009