

Art Paper Scissors

A community of parents and teachers gathered to share views, visions and resources for the advancement of art education for our children



2009 State of the Arts Survey April 2009

In March and April of 2009 a cross section of art teachers throughout the United States were asked to share their views on the state of art education. The survey group spanned grade levels 0 through 8.

Summary of Findings

Most respondents reported that the state of art education was about the same, a smaller number felt that art education was getting worse. A fortunate few reported that art education in their area had improved.

Not surprisingly a great majority reported that budget cuts and inadequate resources were the greatest challenge. A large number cited lack of support by school administration and lack of interest by parents.

Technology and professional development were the areas where teachers felt resources were most sorely needed; most often they have been solving these problems on their own, although state art educator associations have helped.

Decreasing budgets and the shortage of time dedicated to art education were viewed as the most important issues to address. Following these were a call for more technology and professional development resources.

The survey found that fundraising is considered important by most teachers. PTO/PTA organizations were considered a help in this regard but many teachers must do their own fundraising.

Conclusion

It is encouraging that there is a growing recognition that art education is an essential part of a well round learning environment. Many organizations who support this premise are gaining ground. With the support of Washington in actions like President Obama's federal budget proposal to increase the National Endowment for the Arts' budget by 4% there is room for optimism.

Yet there is much work to be done. We at Art Paper Scissors plan to initiate new programs to help address the many pressing issues and bring to our devoted the art teachers the support they so justly deserve.

Survey Tabulation

How do you see the state of art education in the United States and your local area today?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
It is getting better.			6	10.7 %
Is the emphasis on art education in your school on the rise or dwindling?				
Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Staying the same			28	50.0 %
Reduced due to lack of funds			13	23.2 %
Increased, we recognize it as an important part of our mission			13	23.2 %
Other			2	3.5 %
No Response(s)			0	0.0 %
Totals			56	100%

What are the greatest challenges you are encountering in providing quality art education?

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

1 = Not a Challenge, 5 = Greatest Challenge

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Budget Cuts						54	3.4
Lack of Support by School Administration						55	2.5
Lack of Interest by Parents						56	2.2
Lack of Interest by Students						55	1.7
Shortage of Good Curriculum						54	1.8
Too Many Students						55	2.8
Too Little Time						56	3.5
Lack of Professional Development Opportunities						55	3.1
Lack of Computer Resources						56	3.1

What do you feel are the most important issues to resolve?

1 = Least Important, 5 = Most Important

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Budget Cuts						54	4.0
Lack of Support by School Administration						51	3.5
Lack of Interest by Parents						51	2.6
Lack of Interest by Students						51	2.6
Shortage of Good Curriculum						51	2.4
Too Many Students						52	3.3
Too Little Time						52	3.7
Lack of Professional Development Opportunities						52	3.3
Lack of Computer Resources						51	3.0

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

How do you feel about the use of technology in your art education?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Is it not an important part			9	16.0 %
It is a very important part but we don't have adequate resources			33	58.9 %
It is a very important part and we do have adequate resources			7	12.5 %
Other			6	10.7 %
No Response(s)			1	1.7 %
Totals			56	100%

Do you use the Internet in your art education?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No			6	10.7 %
We would like to but do not have Internet access			2	3.5 %
Yes, but we have limited resources			23	41.0 %
Yes, but it is primarily homework			3	5.3 %
Yes, we use it as a regular part of classroom activities			16	28.5 %
Other			5	8.9 %
No Response(s)			1	1.7 %
Totals			56	100%

How do you feel about professional development for art teachers?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I wish there were more resources available			37	66.0 %
There are adequate resources and I take advantage of them			9	16.0 %
I don't have time for professional development			4	7.1 %
Other			4	7.1 %
No Response(s)			2	3.5 %
Totals			56	100%

As an art teacher, from where do you get the most support?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
School administration			12	21.4 %
National art educators association			1	1.7 %
State art educators association			16	28.5 %
Local art association			3	5.3 %
On your own			22	39.2 %
Other			2	3.5 %
No Response(s)			0	0.0 %
Totals			56	100%

How important is fundraising to your art education efforts?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I don't need it my school provides adequate rescoures			13	23.2 %
It is helpful for extra projects or field trips			26	46.4 %
It is essential and could not survive with out it			5	8.9 %
I could really use more help in this area			6	10.7 %
No Response(s)			6	10.7 %
Totals			56	100%

Do you conduct or participate in annual art events?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No			1	1.7 %
Yes, I organize the event			22	39.2 %
Yes, I organize the event with my PTO/PTA			4	7.1 %
Yes, I organize the event with my school administration			7	12.5 %
Yes, I organize the event with a local art organization			7	12.5 %
No, but I would like to learn how to do an event like this			5	8.9 %
Other			8	14.2 %
No Response(s)			2	3.5 %
Totals			56	100%

Have you ever done an art based fundraising program at your school?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No, but we are interested in this type of program			16	28.5 %
Yes, and we plan to run such a program again			19	33.9 %
Yes, but we don't plan to run such a program again			4	7.1 %
No, we have never done such a program and won't in the future			15	26.7 %
No Response(s)			2	3.5 %
Totals			56	100%

Who does fundraising for your classes?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
PTO/PTA			20	35.7 %
School Administration			6	10.7 %
Teachers do it themselves			17	30.3 %
Other			10	17.8 %
No Response(s)			3	5.3 %
Totals			56	100%