



Dear Public School Principal,

Providing a quality education for students throughout Kentucky is one of the most important things we can do to improve our economy, our workforce, our families, and our society. As demonstrated in numerous studies, access to quality arts education improves school attendance rates and leads to higher graduation rates; helps students make connections across disciplines and develops higher brain function which results in higher test scores; helps level the playing field across socioeconomic strata; encourages creativity and critical thinking which are essential skills for higher education and workforce development; and improves social skills such as teamwork, tolerance, and confidence.

South Arts, a regional arts organization that serves nine states in the southeastern U.S., is working in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Arts Council to conduct a research project which seeks to quantify access to and quality of arts education offered at K-12 public schools throughout the South Arts region, including Kentucky. This research is essential to identify the strengths and gaps in arts education in the South and will provide useful data that will help us improve arts education delivery in Kentucky.

The research process involves sending an electronic survey to each of the principals at K-12 public schools in our state. The survey is comprised of approximately 30 questions in the areas of access to arts education, quality of arts education, resources and partners, decision-maker perspectives, and demographics, as well as general information.

Here is the link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ArtsEdKentucky>

We encourage you to complete this survey, regardless of whether you have a robust arts education program or no arts education at all, as the results will help us develop policies and programs that acknowledge our strengths and address our gaps in arts education. The responses from individual schools will remain confidential and all data will be shared only in aggregate on a state and multi-state basis. Information that specifically identifies a school will only be used to track and correlate data, and to help inform program decisions within our agencies.

You will have the ability to save this survey and return to it to complete your answers, but it will not save answers for a partially completed page. To save the answers on any page, you must complete the page on which you are working and move on to the next page. The estimated amount of time to complete the survey (15 to 30 minutes) will vary depending on the availability of information on and your familiarity with your school's arts education programs.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention and for helping us to improve the delivery of arts education in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Lori Meadows
Executive Director
Kentucky Arts Council

Terry Holiday
Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education

Mollie Lakin-Hayes
Acting Director
South Arts