

These 31 research-based Facts about the presence, value and challenges facing theatre education are annually updated and cited to promote Theatre in Our Schools, in March, and throughout the year. Use the ones that will best help you to “make your case” for your students and your program.

1. There are nearly 26,000 K-12 school-based theatre programs throughout the United States.

*MTD Marketing, 2014*

<http://mtdresearch.com/>

2. 97% of school administrators believe that theatre experiences help increase students’ understanding of the world.

*2012 EdTA-Utah State University Survey of Theatre Education Programs in U.S. High Schools*

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/landscapesurvey>

3. High poverty students with sustained involvement in theatre show substantial improvement in reading proficiency, gains in self-concept and motivation, and higher levels of empathy for others.

*Doing Well and Doing Good by Doing Art, 2009*

<http://www.amazon.com/Doing-Well-Good-Art-Longitudinal/dp/1616234792>

4. Only 28% of public high schools in high poverty areas offer theatre instruction.

*National Center for Education Statistics, 2012*

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2012014rev>

5. 95% of school administrators believe that theatre experiences improve students overall academic skills

*2012 EdTA-Utah State University Survey of Theatre Education Programs in U.S. High Schools*

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/landscapesurvey>

6. Classroom drama games increase literacy skills in young children

*Critical Links, Arts Education Partnership, 2002*

<http://www.artreachsandiego.org/research/CriticalLinks.pdf>

7. Sustained learning experiences in theatre correlate to greater student success in math and reading and students from lower socio-economic backgrounds benefit the most.

*Champions for Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning, Arts Education Partnership, 1999*

<https://archive.org/details/championsofchang00fisk>

8. Only 4% of all public elementary schools offer theatre instruction.

*National Center for Education Statistics, 2012*

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2012014rev>

9. Training in acting classes improves language and memory skills.

*Learning, Arts, and the Brain, The Dana Foundation, 2008*

[http://www.hewlett.org/uploads/files/Learning\\_Arts\\_and\\_the\\_Brain.pdf](http://www.hewlett.org/uploads/files/Learning_Arts_and_the_Brain.pdf)

10. Most high school theatre programs rely entirely on box office revenue to support their activities.

*2012 EdTA-Utah State University Survey of Theatre Education Programs in U.S. High Schools*

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/landscapesurvey>

11. “Arts education isn't something we add on after we've achieved other priorities, like raising test scores and getting kids into college. It's actually critical for achieving those priorities in the first place.”

*Former First Lady, Michelle Obama*

<http://turnaroundarts.pcah.gov/what-we-do/>

12. [Creative drama enhances fluent and flexible thinking in young students.](#)

*Enhancing Fluent and Flexible Thinking through the Creative Drama Process, Thinking Skills and Creativity, 2009*

<http://www.artsedsearch.org/summaries/enhancing-fluent-and-flexible-thinking-through-the-creative-drama-process>

13. Only 32% of all public secondary schools offer professional development for theatre educators.

*2012 EdTA-Utah State University Survey of Theatre Education Programs in U.S. High Schools*

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/landscapesurvey>

14. Students highly involved in theatre are more likely to be reading at a high level of proficiency by grade 12.

*Doing Well and Doing Good by Doing Art, 2009*

<http://www.amazon.com/Doing-Well-Good-Art-Longitudinal/dp/1616234792>

15. 82% of college theatre graduates go on to professional artist careers.

*Strategic National Arts Alumni Project, 2012*

<http://snaap.indiana.edu/snaapshot/>

16. 85% of suburban schools offer curricular theatre courses, while 65% of small towns and rural areas include courses.

*2012 EdTA-Utah State University Survey of Theatre Education Programs in U.S. High Schools*

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/landscapesurvey>

17. 95% of high schools offered theatre-related extra-curricular activities during the 2011-12 school year.

*2012 EdTA-Utah State University Survey of Theatre Education Programs in U.S. High Schools*

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/landscapesurvey>

18. Nearly 62% of all high school theatre educators hold graduate degrees.

*2012 EdTA-Utah State University Survey of Theatre Education Programs in U.S. High Schools*

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/landscapesurvey>

19. Young children taught in theatre arts integration classrooms have higher attendance rates.

*2012 EdTA-Utah State University Survey of Theatre Education Programs in U.S. High Schools*

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/landscapesurvey>

20. A study of Nobel Prize winners in science revealed that most have art related hobbies.

*Hobbled Arts Limit Our Future, Psychology Today blog, 2009*

[http://music.sierravistams.org/docs/Psychology\\_Today.pdf](http://music.sierravistams.org/docs/Psychology_Today.pdf)

21. In 2011-12, on average, high schools spent \$7,500 to produce a musical, and \$2,700 to produce a non-musical play.

2012 EdTA-Utah State University Survey of Theatre Education Programs in U.S. High Schools

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/landscapesurvey>

22. Almost half of all high schools have theatre facilities that are more than thirty years old.

2012 EdTA-Utah State University Survey of Theatre Education Programs in U.S. High Schools

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/landscapesurvey>

23. Middle school students who participate in drama programs are less likely to engage in risky, delinquent, and/or violent behaviors.

*Whole brain learning: The fine arts with students at risk, 2006*

<http://www.artsedsearch.org/summaries/whole-brain-learning-the-fine-arts-with-students-at-risk>

24. High poverty students who engage in sustained involvement in theatre show significant gains in self-awareness, motivation to succeed, and improved empathy for others.

*Doing Well and Doing Good by Doing Art, 2009*

<http://www.amazon.com/Doing-Well-Good-Art-Longitudinal/dp/1616234792>

25. Students from high-income families are twice as likely as students from low income families to participate in school plays.

*Doing Well and Doing Good by Doing Art, 2009*

<http://www.amazon.com/Doing-Well-Good-Art-Longitudinal/dp/1616234792>

26. In 2014, students who took four years of arts classes in high school scored an average of 96 points higher on their SATs than students who took only one half year or less.

*The College Board*

[http://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2014/by\\_program/networks\\_and\\_councils/arts\\_ed\\_network/navigators\\_series/AFTA\\_Navigator\\_Facts-and-Figures.pdf](http://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2014/by_program/networks_and_councils/arts_ed_network/navigators_series/AFTA_Navigator_Facts-and-Figures.pdf)

27. At-risk eighth graders involved in the arts have better grades and are more likely to attend college than their friends who don't participate in the arts.

*Source: Doing Well and Doing Good by Doing Art, 2009*

<http://www.amazon.com/Doing-Well-Good-Art-Longitudinal/dp/1616234792>

28. Young adults who had arts-rich experiences in high school are more likely to engage in public volunteerism.

*National Endowment for the Arts: The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth, 2011*

<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Arts-At-Risk-Youth.pdf>

29. Nearly two-thirds of corporate executives agree that a degree in the arts is the most significant indicator of creativity.

*The Conference Board, 2011*

<https://www.providenceri.com/efile/3396>

30. The arts are a core subject area under federal law, similar to math, English, and other curricular academics. *U.S. Department of Education*

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pq107.html>

31. Theatre can help young students build understanding of scientific practice concepts. <https://www.artsedsearch.org/study/science-and-theatre-education-a-cross-disciplinary-approach-of-scientific-ideas-addressed-to-student-teachers-of-early-childhood-education>