

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 2024 AS ARTS
EDUCATION MONTH**

WHEREAS, Arts Education Month celebrates and amplifies the innovative work of arts educators in service of students and families in communities across the State; and

WHEREAS, the State recognizes arts learning, including dance, music, theater, visual arts and media arts taught by certified arts educators in partnership with community providers as an essential element and core content of a complete and balanced education for all students; and

WHEREAS, arts learning includes engagement with literary arts, folk and traditional arts and service-oriented projects and involves many interdisciplinary connections; and

WHEREAS, arts education provides substantial educational benefits to all elementary, middle and secondary school students; and

WHEREAS, arts education develops students' creative potential and supports collaboration, communication, problem-solving and critical thinking skills that are essential for our workforce in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, arts education has the power to change students' lives; and

WHEREAS, students, families and community members benefit most from arts learning opportunities that are designed to be accessible to all and to make connections to the lived experience of students across the State; and

WHEREAS, arts education helps nurture healthy, inclusive communities where all points of view are respected; and

WHEREAS, while arts learning supports academic growth in a variety of content areas, each arts discipline has tremendous value as stand-alone academic content; and

WHEREAS, equitable access to arts education opportunities is sustained by a wide range of partners, including school leadership, educators, families, teaching artists, arts organizations, local and statewide organizations and government agencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate March 2024 as Arts Education Month and to recognize the professional expertise of arts educators and advocates around the State, invite community leaders to continue to strengthen and increase access to arts education for every student regardless of geographic location and give our full support for quality school arts programs for Maine's youth.