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## SCR-123 Arts Education Month. (2023-2024)

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### Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 123

#### CHAPTER 50

Relative to Arts Education Month.

[ Filed with Secretary of State April 19, 2024. ]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 123, Allen. Arts Education Month.

This measure would proclaim March 2024 as Arts Education Month and urge all residents to become interested in and give full support to quality arts education programs for children and youth.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, The arts are a necessary and required component of every California pupil's education to develop well-rounded, lifelong learners who contribute to the prosperity and quality of life for local and global communities; and

WHEREAS, Arts education is crucial to achieving a state educational policy devoted to the teaching of essential academic skills and lifelong learning capacities to truly prepare all children for success in school and life, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, language, economic status, physical ability, or learning ability; and

WHEREAS, Arts education prepares pupils for the 21st century workforce, furthers academic goals, complements learning in other core subjects, improves pupil engagement and attendance, strengthens family and community engagement, and enhances a positive school culture and climate; and

WHEREAS, Arts education uniquely communicates the ideas and emotions of the human spirit and connects us to our history, heritage, and culture, fostering appreciation, affirmation and revitalization of one's culture, and understanding of other cultures. Developing emotional intelligence, social-emotional learning, critical thinking, effective communication, collaborative skills, and creativity; and

WHEREAS, Arts education — dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts — develops engaged, creative, expressive, responsive, empathetic, and artistically literate communities; it fosters joy, promotes tolerance, and cultivates decency in society; and

WHEREAS, Arts education nurtures creativity and expression and is a valuable means to attain long-term employment across diverse industries. Creativity is critical to our future economies and essential for people to stay relevant and thrive in our fast-evolving workforce, according to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report; and

WHEREAS, The arts are a recognized part of a quality education, and the University of California and the California State University have instituted a policy that includes arts education as a college preparatory subject for all high school pupils wishing to enter the state's institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, California voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Proposition 28: The Arts and Music in Schools - Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act, mandating dedicated funding and equitable access to arts education for all California public school pupils; and

WHEREAS, Every pupil has a right to a well-rounded education that includes the arts and the benefits it brings, as mandated in Sections 51210 and 51220 of the Education Code, which state, in part, "[t]he adopted course of study" shall include instruction or offer courses in "[v]isual and performing arts, including instruction in the subjects of dance, music, theater, and visual arts, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative expression"; and

WHEREAS, The State Board of Education adopted the California Arts Standards for Public Schools, Prekindergarten Through Grade Twelve in 2019 and the California Arts Education Framework for Public Schools, Transitional Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve in 2020, which provide a foundation for the development of artistic competencies and the cultivation of a lifelong appreciation and understanding of the arts. The California Arts Standards reflect the fundamental belief that every child should have equitable access to high-quality, standards-based arts education to thrive and participate in modern society; and

WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts education associations hold celebrations in March, giving California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of the arts for all pupils, foster cross-cultural understanding, provide recognition to the state's outstanding young artists, and enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims the month of March 2024 as Arts Education Month and urges all residents to become interested in and give full support to quality arts education programs for children and youth; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.