

The New Hampshire Arts Education Survey

Top Ten Reasons to Do It Today!

Don't let the launch of the New Hampshire Arts Education Survey* 2009 pass you by. Read the top ten reasons why you should participate, then put down your cell phone, conducting baton or paint brush, pick up your pencil, and get to it!

- 1. We need to know**—we need to know about arts education in New Hampshire so that the arts can be sustained, grow and flourish. How do we do that? We start by finding out how it's being done across the state, what's working, what's being offered and where, and what we need to focus on to improve arts education for all students.
- 2. Discover school-based trends**—because this is the first year of the survey, and we intend to do this annually, your individual school survey data can be used to track trends in music, visual art, theatre and dance education at your school from year to year. Then, whether your program is increasing or decreasing, this data can be used to show administration, parents, and school boards qualitative data about your school's program. You'll have numbers to back up your story. You can even use these numbers for grant applications.
- 3. 4 hours of time**—that's all the time it takes for you to collect the information asked for on the survey and enter the data into the on-line system (according to the average field test user). Music and art teachers should take the lead, with the principal acting as an advisor. Principals should consider granting professional development credit for this work. Providing teachers with time at the next teacher professional development day is one way principals can show their support.
- 4. Now's the time**—the survey is available right now as a PDF at www.ed.state.nh.us/education/arts. Download the appropriate elementary and/or high school PDF version to see all the survey questions and begin collecting data. There are two additional supporting documents on this web page, a *User's Guide* and a *Definitions* document. You should download these, too. The Arts Education page of the NH DOE website will continue to house updates about the survey and any supporting documents to help you with your questions.
- 5. Team Up**—use the survey as an opportunity to create teams of arts educators in your building or district to answer the questions. If you are an art or music teacher and initiating this work, your principal needs to know that you are participating in this project (they may or may not have heard about it). They need to understand the value of the survey and what it means to their school (see #1 & #2 above). You may need to deliver that message. Your principal may also need to help you answer some questions, plus they need to sign-off on a data validation form found at the end of the survey. This form should be faxed to the DOE. It's all laid out once you access the survey on-line.
- 6. Access the Survey On-line**—the NH Arts Education Survey is due to be available on-line by the end of March as part of the Education Statistic System (ESS) housed at the New Hampshire Department of Education. This is where you enter your school's data. If you are not already a part of the Education Statistic System (ESS) you will need to set yourself up as a user. Further information about how to do that will be posted at www.ed.state.nh.us/education/arts. You will have approximately six-weeks, or until May 15th to get your data into the system. Entering data should take less than 1 hour.

*The New Hampshire Arts Education Survey is a joint project of the New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.
Marcia McCaffrey, NHDOE, Arts Consultant
Catherine O'Brian, NHSCA, Coordinator, Arts Education Grants and Programs

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7. We need you—later this year, after the survey closes, we will work with an outside contractor to create a statewide report on arts education in New Hampshire. The more schools that participate in this project, the more accurate the statewide report will be. Without every school, our data will be incomplete.

8. Show-off—we can use this survey to show-off the good work happening around New Hampshire in arts education. New Hampshire provides some of the greatest arts opportunities for students in this country! With numbers, statistics, trend-analyses and written reports we can speak with authority about the good work we do here to our in-state neighbors and to our peers beyond state borders.

9. It makes a difference—we want the survey results to drive next best steps for arts education, be it at the school, district or state level. If we don't know what's going on in schools, we can't use data to make decisions; we're working in the dark. Let's shine a light on the arts, it will make a difference.

10. You can do it—don't leave your school out; you can do it. Take the time today to become informed about the survey by going to www.ed.state.nh.us/education/arts or and start filling in the survey questions today.

New Hampshire Arts Education Survey Leadership Team

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Arts Education in New Hampshire

We Dig Data

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