

The Boston Globe

Arts must be key to school curriculum

February 10, 2007

TRACY JAN called attention to the life-changing opportunities the Boston Arts Academy provides to so many young people ("Aiming for fame," City & Region, Feb. 4). However, she also notes that students attempting to enter have only a "slim" chance.

At the Boston Arts Academy, 95 percent of students enrolled go on to four-year colleges, compared to about 47 percent of other public-school students. Nevertheless, while 700 kids dance, sing, and drum to be admitted, only 125 students are accepted each year.

This article points to our community's and our nation's dire need for arts education as a fundamental element of the curriculum. We've built a coalition of 30 programs, including the Boston Arts Academy, striving to increase the private and public funding of arts organizations. We need to ensure that every student can stretch his or her mind, body, and spirit. That's good not only for our young people, but for producing the imaginative innovators who drive our economy.

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