



DELAWARE  
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# CREATE Plan Arts Education

Learn more about the CREATE Plan and read the report at:  
[DELAWAREARTSALLIANCE.ORG/CREATIVEECONOMY](https://delawareartsalliance.org/creativeeconomy)

Image © The Dover Art League



A thriving creative economy relies on a strong foundation in arts education. The CREATE Plan recognizes this crucial link and aims to improve the quality of and access to arts education across Delaware. Nurturing talent through the arts from a young age fosters not only a workforce of future creative professionals, but also cultivates essential skills like creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving—valuable assets for any career path. This skill development happens in both school settings and in the community, from early years well into adulthood.

## The Current Arts Education Landscape in Delaware

The CREATE Plan was informed by an extensive analysis of existing educational structures and programs, and feedback from a diverse group of over 600 stakeholders, including focus groups and surveys specifically for arts educators. This thorough research process revealed both challenges and opportunities in Delaware's arts education landscape.

Delaware has a **passionate community of arts educators** who are committed to improving arts education opportunities. However, arts educators face limitations due to **budgetary constraints and limited resources**.

While primary education generally adheres to national standards, access to arts education becomes significantly **less equitable at the secondary level, particularly for students from low-income backgrounds and rural communities**.

Funding for arts programs in schools is a persistent issue. **Budget cuts and competition for resources often leave arts education programs on the chopping block**.

Although colleges offer creative industry programs, **stronger connections with local employers could better support students entering the workforce**.

There are **numerous advocacy and nonprofits already working to improve arts education in the state**, and many arts institutions run arts educational programs.



Image © The Music School of Delaware

# Investing in the Future of Delaware's Creative Economy

Investing in arts education is an investment in Delaware's future. By fostering creativity and innovation, the state can unlock its potential as a leader in the creative industries. Equipped with the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow, students will be empowered to drive economic growth and cultural enrichment throughout the state.

The CREATE Plan outlines a clear path forward. Through these four actionable recommendations, the plan addresses existing challenges and paves the way for a more robust and inclusive arts education system in Delaware.

## Secure arts funding for every student in public education

- Earmark a yearly budget for arts education, covering primary and secondary schooling, weighted towards supporting schools in low income neighborhoods and helping schools cover administrative costs of budget implementation.
- Schools would be able to use this additional funding to either support a full-time arts teacher, or use it to bring in freelancers or nonprofit arts education program providers to supplement the arts education they are already providing.

## Make arts education mandatory in secondary education

- Introduce participation in arts education as a requirement for graduation from secondary education in Delaware.
- This requirement will necessitate the introduction of secure arts education funding and will ensure that all students in public schools in Delaware have access to arts education throughout their school career.

## Improve career development opportunities for secondary education students

- Create more opportunities for students in secondary and non-university higher education to see the creative economy as a place for career development.
- Introduce annual career days for 15-24 year olds, and develop an official mentorship program.

## Advocate for more pathway courses and associate degrees related to the creative economy

- Seek to expand the options available to young people and adults wanting to gain formal education in topics and skills related to creative economy sectors with pathway courses and associate degrees.

## Turning Vision Into Action With The CREATE Plan

The CREATE Plan is more than just an analysis – it's a powerful call to action. This roadmap equips all stakeholders, from community members to government officials, with actionable recommendations for unlocking the full potential of Delaware's creative economy.

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View the CREATE Plan asset map, which shows availability of education programming in the community:

[DELWAREARTSALLIANCE.ORG/ASSETMAP](https://delawareartsalliance.org/assetmap)

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View the Arts Education Dashboard, which shows availability of arts classes at the school level:

[DELWAREARTSALLIANCE.ORG/RESOURCES/  
ARTS-EDUCATION-DASHBOARD](https://delawareartsalliance.org/resources/arts-education-dashboard)

