

Why is the Creative Campus Stage Measured?

Research on creative learning shows that students attending arts-rich schools have higher levels of motivation and better academic and social success (President's Committee of the Arts and Humanities, 2011, *Reinvesting in Arts Education*: http://www.pcah.gov/sites/default/files/PCAH_Reinvesting_4web_0.pdf). Because the arts benefit students academically and creatively, prepare them for the workforce, help to keep them engaged in school until they graduate, and provide them with positive personal and social benefits, AISD, in collaboration with the City of Austin and MINDPOP through the Creative Learning Initiative, is strategically working towards achieving Creative Campuses for all students by 2022-2023. Current AISD findings indicate that 57% of our schools are already Creative Campuses (Figure 1) and that the implementation of creative teaching strategies has been related to increased levels of student engagement, greater student achievement, and decreased high school dropouts (Creative Learning Initiative Annual Evaluation Report, 2015-2016). In order to track progress and identify key areas for growth, the Creative Campus rubric is used to measure the stage of arts richness reported by campus leaders on the annual Arts Inventory (see side bar for calculation).

What Does it Mean to be an Arts Emerging-2 Campus?

Though your campus doesn't yet meet the full criteria of a Creative Campus, it is on that path since it qualifies as arts emerging. In arts emerging school, many students receive sequential fine arts instruction, less than half of teachers use creative teaching strategies at least once a week, and some community arts partnerships are cultivated both during and after school. To improve, encourage all teachers to attend CLI professional development and implement creative teaching regularly, develop new community arts partnerships in additional grade levels, and communicate more frequently with families about the value of creative learning.



Calculation of Creative Campus Stage

The Creative Campus stage is calculated as the average of the primary four components (Sequential Fine Arts Instruction, Creative Teaching across the Curricula, Community Arts Partnerships, and After School) plus points earned (or lost) from the additional five components (Community Building through the Arts, Leadership, Communication, Professional Development, and Facilities).

Description of points earned/lost from additional five components:

If # "Yes"=0, then -1 point

If # "Yes"=1, then -0.5 points

If # "Yes"=2 or 3, then 0 points

If # "Yes"=4, then +0.5 points

If # "Yes"=5, then +1 point

Creative Campus stages by final score:

≥ 4 = Arts Rich

In Which Creative Campus Stages Were AISD Elementary Schools in 2015-2016?

Figure 1.

In 2015-2016, the majority of AISD elementary schools had characteristics of being Arts Rich or Arts Involved.