

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).

9

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.