

# A+ SCHOOLS' IMPACT: TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS THROUGH THE ARTS SINCE 1995

The A+ Schools model of comprehensive school reform views the arts as fundamental to how teachers teach and how students learn in all subjects. A+ has been hailed as the nation's most successful whole school reform model using the arts. The strategies that schools used to implement A+ include:

- Increasing arts instruction and fostering two-way integration of the arts
- Tapping into multiple learning pathways
- Emphasizing hands-on learning
- Taking an integrated, thematic approach to the curriculum
- Increasing professional collaboration
- Strengthening school partnerships

Data from all statewide A+ networks show the following:

## HAPPIER, MORE ENGAGED STUDENTS

100% of Louisiana A+ principals reported a "noticeable increase in student and teacher engagement schoolwide." And in North Carolina, data from A+ student and teacher surveys show increased student enthusiasm for school and learning.



*"I'm having more fun than just sitting in my desk listening to my teacher and answering questions." - A+ student*

## STRONG STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Achievement data from North Carolina show that students gain in proficiency after A+ implementation with marginalized students making some of the largest gains. Data from Oklahoma shows that A+ schools consistently outperform their non-A+ peers.

## POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

In Arkansas, 100% of A+ schools rated their climate better from year one to year three of A+ implementation. And in a Louisiana Impact Survey more than 96% of A+ teachers cite A+ as the catalyst for improved visible changes schoolwide.



*"Our students are happier. My teachers are happier. Our entire school is a better place because of A+." - A+ Principal*

## FEWER DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

A+ school leaders report improved attitudes, attendance and behavior since implementing A+. In Louisiana, 98% of A+ Principals reported a decrease in student disciplinary issues since implementing A+.

## INCREASED ARTS OPPORTUNITIES

Data across statewide A+ networks indicate that opportunities for learning in and through the arts increase for A+ students both within the classroom and beyond. In Arkansas, A+ teachers reported bringing more teaching artists into their schools as well as taking students on more arts-related field trips.



*"This is the best professional development I've had in my 21 years of teaching." - A+ Teacher*

## TRANSFORMATIONAL TRAINING

In an Oklahoma A+ schools survey, 100% of respondents reported that A+ professional development was better than any other PD they had previously attended. In addition, data from North Carolina show the impact of A+ professional development is cumulative—the more A+ PD schools have, the stronger the impact.

*"Becoming an A+ school may be the very best decision you and your staff could ever make. The training and support provided by the A+ Network is unparalleled. The energy and focus it brings to your school is transformational. Our students are performing better on academic standards because they are able to connect with the content in so many different ways than in a traditional school setting." - A+ Principal*

For more information: <https://www.nationalaplusschools.org>