

# 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>**