



## Tool N: Data Questions to Consider

This worksheet offers questions to consider as you begin the process of reviewing your arts education data. Think about your own priorities for arts education. For example, are you interested in focusing on a community, a school, a county or an entire state? Are you interested in addressing questions of equity by race, ethnicity, family income or other characteristics? Here are examples of questions to consider:

### Access

- What percentage of students have access to arts instruction?  
For example, are there gaps between rural, urban and suburban students; students who are eligible for free / reduced lunch and those who aren't; students of different races and ethnicities? Do students with disabilities and English language learners have less access than their peers?
- Are schools meeting your state requirements for arts access? (Check out [ArtScan](#) from the Arts Education Partnership for an overview of what those requirements are in your state.)
- Which of the arts disciplines — dance, theatre, music, visual arts or media arts — do these students have access to?
- Is access to education in each of the arts disciplines strong across grade levels?

### Participation

- What percentage of students enroll in arts courses? Are there gaps by race / ethnicity; eligibility for free or reduced lunch; rural, urban or suburban status; etc.?
- What percentage of students enroll in courses in each of the arts disciplines?
- Does participation differ among grade levels?
- Are schools meeting requirements for participation, like graduation requirements?

### Teachers

- What percentage of arts teachers are certified or have recommended endorsements in the specific arts subject they teach? (Review your state's teacher certification requirements.) Are there gaps in access to such teachers by school location, neighborhood characteristics or school level?
- What percentage of students in arts classes have access to such teachers? Are there differences by race / ethnicity, eligibility for free / reduced lunch or other demographic characteristics?
- What are the average class sizes or student/ teacher ratios by arts discipline?

## Comparing Schools, Districts and States

### COMPARISONS AMONG STATES

- How does your state compare to other states?
- How do your state numbers compare to national averages?
- The [2016 National Assessment of Educational Progress arts assessment](#) may have information that can support your efforts. (Note: The questions NAEP addresses are almost certainly not identical to the questions your state's data addresses, so handle your comparisons with care.)

### COMPARISONS AMONG DISTRICTS OR COUNTIES

- How does your jurisdiction compare to other jurisdictions in your state?
- How does your county or district compare to state averages?

### COMPARISONS AMONG INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS

- How does one school compare to other schools?
- What about schools in the same or different communities?
- What about schools serving similar or different demographics? (The federal government's [Civil Rights Data Collection](#) allows you to quickly find demographic information on every school and district in the country.)