# WHAT YOU CAN DO

## GET INFORMED

How does your school's arts programs compare to the national average? Use this checklist based on top-level findings from the Snapshot of Arts Access in U.S. Schools (2009-10 FRSS) to start a conversation in your community. Note that matching these basic national norms does not necessarily mean that a school district is providing the support structures needed for a complete arts education. Consider adding your own questions that look to whether the instruction is sufficient to provide comprehensive, standards-based learning (such as a higher level of frequency of instruction).

## GET CONNECTED

1. **Where can I find information to help me answer the questions in the checklist?**
   Begin with your local school and district contacts. Your arts educators will know most of these answers. So will your principal.

2. **What is required to be offered in my school?**
   Check out state level requirements via the Arts Education Partnership's State Policy Database: http://www.aep-arts.org/research-policy/state-policy-database/aep-2010-2011-state-policy-survey/ and State Report Card: http://www.aep-arts.org/research-policy/state-policy-database/2010-2011-report-card/

3. **What if I want to dive deeper and learn more about arts education support in my school and community?**
   Look into the Kennedy Center Alliances for Arts Education Network's Community Audit – a one stop shop of questions to ask about arts education support in your community: http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/kcaaen/resources/CAudit6-9.pdf

## GET ACTIVE

**What if I want to increase the arts education offerings in my school?**

A variety of arts education advocacy tools are just a few mouse clicks away. Here are some of our favorites:

a. For in-depth advocacy ideas: KCAEEN Arts Education Advocacy Toolkit: http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/kcaaen/resources/ArtsEducationAdvocacyToolkit.pdf
b. For discipline specific advocacy (e.g. visual arts):
   - http://www.nammfoundation.org/support-music - Music Education Advocacy
   - http://www.arteducators.org/advocacy - Visual Arts Education Advocacy
   - http://schooltheatre.org/advocacy - Theatre Education Advocacy
   - http://ndeo.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=893257&module_id=55775 – Dance Education Advocacy
c. For research on the impact of arts education, visit: http://www.artsedsearch.org/