California Exemplary Arts Education Award (EAEA)

Recipient Spotlight #4

California Department of Education
Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Each month we will highlight a few of the 2026 recipients

Highlights for this month include:

- Novato High School
- Orange County School of the Arts
- San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts
- Trabuco Hills High School

Novato High School

- Community resources are utilized through field trips, conventions, competitions, and residencies with local theater companies.



- Novato High School offers 58 sections of Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) classes across 13 different fields, ensuring that all students have access to the arts. This includes a partnership with the special education department to help integrate arts-based alternatives for students with Individual Education Plans.

Novato High School | NHS | Novato Unified School District

Orange County School of the Arts

- OCSA offers 17 arts conservatories across five schools of study: Applied Arts, Dance, Fine & Media Arts, Music, and Theatre.
- Their performance calendar features over 300 events annually, allowing students, parents, and the community to engage with student work throughout the year.



OCSA > Home

San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts

- At SDSCPA, artistic learning is embedded into the broader school curriculum and culture through cross disciplinary collaboration.



- Learning through arts is an important part of the school's mission. Students spend 40 percent of their day in rigorous arts programs.

The SDSCPA - Home

Trabuco Hills High School



- Students engage in authentic learning by showcasing their work through public exhibitions with community partners, connecting classroom learning with real-world artistic communities.
- Trabuco Hills High School ensures equitable access to VAPA instruction through strategic scheduling that protects instructional time across all disciplines, with six sections allocated to Ceramics, Art, and Choir to meet high student demand.

Trabuco Hills High School | Saddleback Valley Unified School District

Thank you!

EAEA Support Team

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California Exemplary Arts Education Award web page