

Creative Campus Distribution

In 2017-2018 equitable access to arts rich schools was maintained, but overall progress showed first signs of strain.

The Creative Learning Initiative (CLI) is a community-wide effort to bring creative learning and the arts to every student in Austin. Led by MINDPOP, the City of Austin, and the Austin Independent School District (AISD), CLI aims to address disparities in access to the arts for young people across the district by eventually supporting every AISD school to be a Creative Campus by 2023. The term Creative Campus is a multifaceted way to summarize a framework of nine components that can come together to measure the concept of the arts richness of a school (Figure 1). This report, which is the first in a series of three reports evaluating CLI for the 2017-2018 school year, shows trends in districtwide distribution of art richness at AISD campuses.

Figure 1.
Nine Components of a Creative Campus



Source: MINDPOP

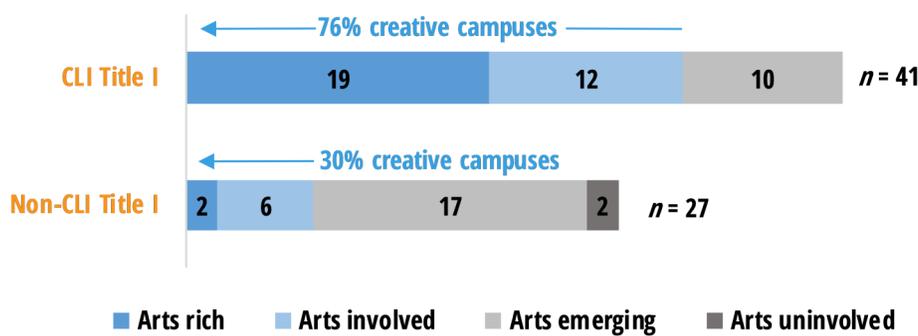
Highlights of Findings and Recommendations

Progress towards the 2023 goal of 100% Creative Campuses was still on pace, but showing the first signs of strain: In 2017– 2018, the percent of AISD campuses meeting the Creative Campus standard decreased from 60% to 59%. The program has shown considerable progress each year of its prior six years, and this was the first year to see any decrease. Support was spread thin due to the gradual increases in the number of schools served by CLI over the years without any increase in resources. Like every year before, elementary schools continued to reach higher levels of arts richness than secondary schools across the district. We recommend resources be increased or the program modify implementation and/or expectations to fit current resources.

CLI support is critical to arts richness at Title I schools: For the second year in a row, districtwide equity was achieved between the district’s Title I and non-Title I schools in terms of the distribution of schools meeting the Creative Campus standard. This achievement is important because access to the arts is especially advantageous to low-income students, and yet it is often those exact populations who lack equitable access to the arts. In 2017-2018, the majority (73%) of CLI campuses were Title I schools, and of those, 76% met the Creative Campus standard. In contrast, Title I schools that were *not* yet supported by CLI were disproportionately disadvantaged in their level of arts richness (Figure 2). We recommend that CLI should support the rest of Title I schools to continue improving district-wide equitable access to the arts.

Figure 2.

Title I schools were more than twice as likely to be Creative Campuses when they were part of CLI than when they were not.



Source. 2017–2018 AISD elementary/secondary Creative Campus Inventory

For more information on this subject use, the interactive report or read the full report. The interactive report shows district trends in arts richness over three years. Distinctions are available by school level, CLI status, Title I status, and vertical team. In addition, each campus can see and download its own complete Creative Campus profile for 2017-2018 with complete scoring. The full report offers detailed information on the findings summarized here. Both can be found www.austinisd.org/dre/publications (search for “Creative Campus”)

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