



## Key Practices to Sustain Effective Arts Integration

Since 1995, A+ Schools research and practice has identified key commitments and practices that are essential to sustaining a whole-school arts-integrated approach to teaching and learning. Those include:

- A **whole-school commitment** to the value of the arts in education for all learners;
- **Integration of the arts** with all subjects and other school-wide initiatives, without eliminating the arts as independent subjects;
- Ongoing, high quality, practitioner-led **professional development** for the entire school;
- Regularly scheduled **collaborative planning** among grade-level teachers, arts specialists and other specialist teachers;
- A clear understanding and **knowledge of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study** – what students need to know and be able to do;
- Use of arts integration to respond to the **rigor and relevance** of the Standard Course of Study and standardized testing, without narrowing the curriculum;
- Providing the **resources** needed for a quality arts-based and arts-integrated program. These resources include the addition of dance and drama teachers to the current arts staff of schools (usually a music and visual arts teacher), providing at least one period of arts instruction in all four art forms each week for all students; and providing space and materials for the arts;
- Using a **Systems approach** to develop the organizational capacity of individual schools;
- Engagement in a **network** of arts-integrated schools (the North Carolina A+ Schools Network).