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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Jacob Oliva

**DATE:** March 8, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Arts Education Month

**Contact Information:**

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**DPS: 2019-29**

March is nationally recognized as *Music in Our Schools Month*, *Theatre in Our Schools Month*, *Dance in Our Schools Month* and *Youth Art Month*. The Florida Department of Education values the arts and acknowledges the impact they have on student development and academic achievement. The arts not only offer students an opportunity for self-expression and personal growth, but interdisciplinary activities involving the arts can also improve comprehension and challenge students to approach learning in new ways. We encourage all Florida schools to use this month as an opportunity to celebrate the arts and provide students with meaningful, authentic arts experiences.

As you celebrate the arts in your schools, consider enriching curriculum by scheduling time for students to learn from local artists or visit local arts centers and museums. Invite parents and your local community to showcases that highlight your students' artistic achievements. Encourage school administrators and teachers to share their experiences with the arts and how the arts have inspired them both personally and professionally.

The arts are an integral, multifaceted part of life and have the power to inspire and transform. Thank you to all the teachers, administrators and arts education stakeholders who continue to provide excellence and equity in arts education throughout the state of Florida.

JO/eo

cc: School District Principals  
School District Fine Arts Supervisors  
Florida Teachers

JACOB OLIVA  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS