



### The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

The ACE study, as it is called, looked at the effects of three categories of adverse childhood experiences in 17,000 Americans.

- ~Childhood abuse, which includes emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.
- ~Neglect, including both physical and emotional neglect
- ~Family dysfunction, which includes growing up in a household with substance abuse, mental illness, violent treatment of a mother or stepmother, a parental divorce or separation, or that had a member of the household go to prison

“The ACE Study uses the ACE Score, which is a total count of the number of ACEs reported by respondents. The ACE Score is used to assess the total amount of stress during childhood and has demonstrated that as the number of ACEs increase, the risk for...health problems increases in a strong and graded fashion.” (Center for Disease Control, 2014.)

## Resources

Americans for the Arts  
<http://www.americansforthearts.org/>

National Core Arts Standards  
<http://nationalartsstandards.org/>

Helping Traumatized Children Learn  
<http://traumasensitiveschools.org/>

ACES Infographic  
[http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/phl/images/ACE\\_Accessible.pdf](http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/phl/images/ACE_Accessible.pdf)

Massachusetts Advocates for Children  
<http://massadvocates.org/>

The Center for Disease Control's ACE Study Website  
<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acesstudy/>

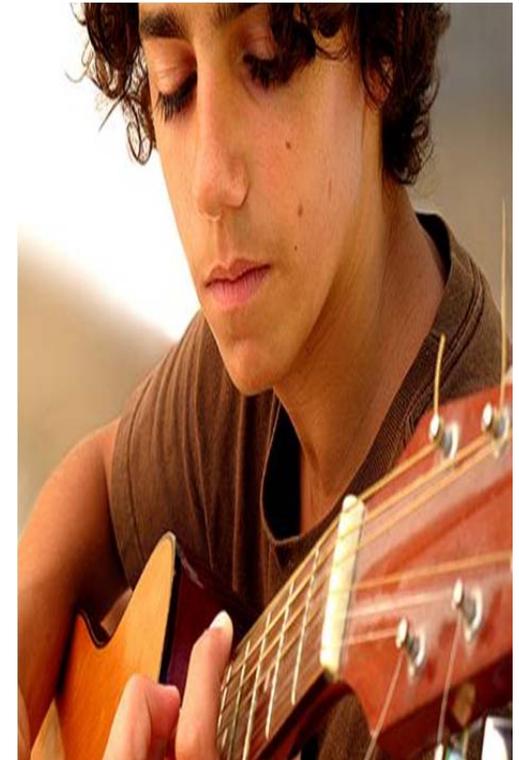
The Maine Resilience Building Network  
<http://www.maineaces.org/>

Aces too High  
<http://acestoohigh.com/>



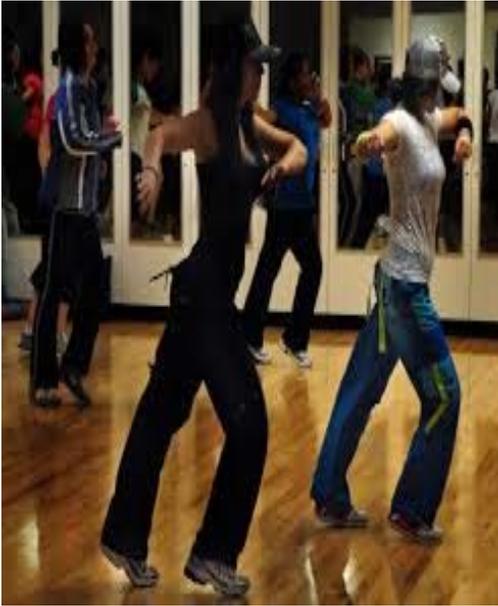
**What does funding for arts education have to do with trauma?**

Melissa Potter and Ashley Ward  
University of New England



What does funding for arts education have to do with trauma?

*Art bringing hope to the challenges of childhood adversity.*



### How does trauma impact the child in a classroom? It can cause:

- ~Difficulty learning to read, write, and solve mathematical problems
- ~Difficulty participating in class discussions
- ~A compromised ability to follow directions
- ~Difficulty organizing and remembering new information

### How does trauma express itself in the school setting?

- ~Difficulty regulating emotions
- ~Acting-out or disruptive behaviors
- ~Inability to process social cues
- ~Challenging relationships with teachers and peers
- ~Internalizing behaviors such as withdrawing or spacing-out

### The Arts and Their Impact on Trauma

- ~Provide a non-verbal form of communication for children and adolescents struggling with trauma
- ~Provide supporters with a way to engage with children and adolescents
- ~Provides children and adolescents with a way to process their trauma

---

*Bringing in more funding for arts education is one small thing schools can do to help their youth who are struggling with trauma!*

---

### What is arts education?

- ~Arts Education provides students with instruction and school programs involving visual and performing arts (art, dance, music, etc.)

### What are the benefits of arts education?

- ~Makes learning exciting for the students
- ~Engages at-risk youth
- ~Supports unique learning styles
- ~Provides opportunities for personal growth and connections
- ~Continues to provide positive challenges for the students



### Be a Trauma Informed School!

A trauma-informed school setting is one in which all staff, from educators to school nurses; from bus drivers to coaches are aware that adverse experiences in the lives of children happen to all children. A school that supports its children to feel safe physically, socially, emotionally, and academically is a trauma-informed school. A diverse offering of classes in the arts helps your school become one step closer to being this safe haven for all the children in your community!