



## THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

Please see the statement below from The Center for Arts Education on the NYC DOE's announcement of the "Excellence Rewards."

**January 7, 2008**

### **The Center for Arts Education Responds to the NYC DOE's "Excellence Rewards"**

The Center for Arts Education (CAE) applauds the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) for recognizing some of the City's schools with yesterday's announcement of the "Excellence Rewards." While these 134 schools have made gains in standardized test scores and received the top score of "well developed" on their Quality Review, the NYC DOE's definition of exemplary performance remains unclear.

As New York State Assembly Member Mark Weprin noted about the Progress Reports during Thursday's announcement at PS 46 in Queens, "It seems to me we're turning our schools into Stanley Kaplan courses."

Since arts teaching and learning is not a priority in the School Progress Reports and its weight in the Quality Review process is subjective, at best, CAE hopes more light will be shed on this important area of education with the upcoming Annual Arts in Schools Report, scheduled for release this month. With the announcement of the ArtsCount initiative this summer, the NYC DOE promised to hold principals accountable for ensuring that all the schools meet the minimum New York State requirements for arts education.

We look forward to learning how the schools recognized with "Excellence Rewards" track against this latest measurement tool.

CAE will continue its work toward ensuring that every child has access to a quality education that includes the arts and hopes that the NYC DOE will continue to explore ways of broadening its assessment of schools.

For more information about the state of arts education in NYC public schools, please contact us at (212) 971-3300 or visit <http://www.cae-nyc.org/>.

*The Center for Arts Education is the leading voice in supporting and sustaining quality arts education in New York City public schools. Working with parents, education, government, and policy leaders, CAE advocates for every child to receive a quality education that includes the arts. For more than a decade CAE has led the charge in addressing the tragic deficit in arts education, as a catalyst for schools to partner with New York City's vast cultural resources in developing and enhancing learning in and through the arts in our schools, an essential part of learning and development. CAE has invested nearly \$40 million over the past decade toward this mission.*

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