Data from The College Board show that in 2013, students who took four years of arts and music classes while in high school (only eighteen percent of test-takers) scored an average of 95 points better on their SATs than students who took only one-half year or less (scores of 1061 vs. 966, respectively).

The College Board’s report, Arts at the Core: Recommendations for advancing the state of arts education in the 21st Century, by the National Task Force on the Arts Education, recommends that education stakeholders consider arts requirements for high school core curricula, high school graduation requirements, and college and university admission requirements in the arts (including arts courses in GPA calculations), working with regional accrediting agencies.

*These scores reflect the Critical Reading and Mathematics portions of the SAT only. The Writing section of the test is excluded from this analysis for year-to-year comparison purposes. Students with four years of art and music classes averaged 520 on the Writing portion of the test—59 points higher than students with one-half year or less of arts/music classes (461).