



- ✓ There are nearly **26,000 K-12 school-based theatre programs** throughout the United States.
- ✓ **100%** of school administrators agreed that theatre programs **strengthen students' creativity skills**.
- ✓ Training in acting classes **improves language and memory skills**.
- ✓ **Only 28% of public high schools in high poverty areas** offer theatre instruction.
- ✓ Creative drama enhances **fluent and flexible thinking** in young students.
- ✓ **95%** of school administrators believe that theatre experiences **improve students' overall academic skills**.
- ✓ High poverty students with sustained involvement in theatre show substantial **improvement in reading proficiency, gains in self-concept and motivation, and higher levels of empathy** for others.
- ✓ Middle school students who participate in after-school theatre programs show **growth in collaboration, critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and empathetic behavior**.
- ✓ **Only 4% of all public elementary schools** offer theatre instruction.
- ✓ **95% of high schools offered theatre-related extra-curricular activities** during the 2011-12 school year.
- ✓ **98%** of school administrators believe that theatre programs strengthen students' **critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and leadership skills**.
- ✓ **Only 32%** of all public secondary schools offer **professional development for theatre educators**.



Theatre students...

- ✓ **Critically think** and **problem-solve artistic, academic, and life challenges** in both conventional and unconventional ways.
- ✓ **Communicate** in a variety of playmaking contexts to **convey their own ideas** and to **interpret the ideas of others**.
- ✓ **Collaborate** to cultivate **diverse ideas, solutions, and common goals**, both onstage and backstage.
- ✓ **Create personally meaningful theatrical stories** generated from a range of sources and ideas.
- ✓ **Innovate** and **investigate** through different approaches to traditional ideas to create new **understanding of existing artistic work, historical facts, and cultural norms**.
- ✓ **Evaluate information** to reflect on its personal and artistic value.
- ✓ **Adapt to changing circumstances** in a variety of artistic and personal situations.
- ✓ **Self-direct** to manage their own learning goals and improve as theatrical artists.
- ✓ **Empathize with peers** to build respectful and effective socially and culturally diverse teams **working toward a common goal**.
- ✓ **Lead to build trust, demonstrate integrity, and inspire others** to model ethical behavior that benefits their school and broader community.

The [Educational Theatre Association](#), home to the [Educational Theatre Foundation](#) and [International Thespian Society](#), is an international nonprofit whose mission is shaping lives through theatre education. The foundation provides essential financial support to enhance theatre education, expand access, and foster racial equity. The International Thespian Society, an honor society active in nearly 5,000 schools, has inducted 2.4 million students since 1929. Visit schooltheatre.org to learn how EdTA honors students, supports teachers, and influences public opinion that theatre education is essential for building life skills.