

Sample Education Impact Op-Ed for Museums. To complete this op-ed, read more about [completing your education impact statement](#).

Museums Support Education in **[Name of community]**

Museums are vital not only to our society and culture, they are essential to our country's education system. Museums not only educate students, they provide professional development to our teachers and contribute to the development of local curricula. In fact, the typical museum devotes three-quarters of its education budget specifically to K-12 students. Nationally, museums invest more than \$2 billion each year in educational programs and provide millions of hours of instruction to students and teachers, including approximately 55 million museum visits each year from school-age students.

Despite the dire impacts of the pandemic on museums across the country, they have not wavered in their commitment to serving our nation's families, teachers, and life-long learners. Museums are creating and sharing supplemental school curricula, providing critical resources for homeschoolers, making thousands of educational resources free to the public, and are continuing to innovate to support the education and mental health of our communities.

Recent research demonstrates that museum field trips are more than a break from class. According to a study published in Education Next, students who attend a field trip to an art museum experience an increase in critical thinking skills, historical empathy, and tolerance. For students from rural or high-poverty regions, the increase was even more significant.

At the **[museum name]** we **[local education impact and activities]**. **[See the Alliance website for a [template.](#)]**

Our museum's educational impact is not limited to school-age students. We also **[Cite life-long learning educational programs for other age groups and audiences, if applicable.]**

Museums—from art and history institutions to zoos, science centers, and all others—are a significant source of experiential learning, critical to many students. In these formats, difficult concepts including math and science become more easily understood.

And, museums are embracing the notion of holistic education in their communities. Across the nation, museums are stepping up to fill social service gaps, working with children on the autism spectrum, Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, and veterans bearing the physical and emotional scars of war.

We encourage citizens in our community to amplify our efforts. At the American Alliance of Museums website (www.aam-us.org/advocacy), you'll find advocacy tools that help you convey your support for museums to your members of Congress with just a few clicks.

Name

Title

Museum / Organization

City

Not for publication:

Email

Address

Phone Number