extra credit

DARK PERIOD

Fine arts teachers, the picture is grim.

A recent NEA Research e-survey shows just how difficult your jobs have become. Your budgets cut. Your colleagues gone. Your work increasingly marginalized as the No Child Left Behind law narrows the curriculum and squeezes every drop of creativity from classrooms. But before you cue the fat lady, keep this in mind: The Reauthorization era is nearing. Visit www.educationvotes.nea.org to find out what you can do to sculpt a finer federal education policy.

80% of arts teachers are female.

95% say they are making a difference in students' lives.

53% hold a masters degree or higher.

36% report a drop in arts staffing in their districts.

93% need to fundraise to support their programs.

The median number of years taught is 19.6.

63% say they would do it all over again.

81% say they will remain a teacher until retirement.

Source: NEA research.

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