

Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking your time to answer the following brief questionnaire. This information will be shared with arts education supporters as they prepare to vote in the upcoming election. If you have any questions about the content or would like more information, please contact Robert Floyd, TCQAE Chair, at (512) 452-0710, ext. 101.

Name Rep Garnet Coleman District 147

Returning the Questionnaire: Return this questionnaire either in the included envelope, or by fax to (512) 451-9213.

Benefits of Music Education

Last year, the Texas Music Educators Association conducted an analysis of student enrollment in Texas middle school and high school fine arts courses (music, theatre, art, and dance). The analysis found that student enrollment in fine arts courses was 36 percent higher in schools rated "exemplary" than in schools rated "low performing." Also, schools with higher student involvement in fine arts had better student attendance records. In addition, students selected as Texas All-State musicians have SAT scores over 300 points higher than the state average and over 200 points higher than the national average.

1. Do you believe that studying music and other fine arts helps improve student performance in other academic courses?
 Yes No Undecided Would like more information

2. Do you believe that student involvement in music and other fine arts reduces the drop out rate by keeping some at-risk students interested in school?
 Yes No Undecided Would like more information

3. Do you believe that instruction in music and other fine arts provides students with learning skills that enhance college preparedness?
 Yes No Undecided Would like more information

4. Do you believe that creativity fostered by a fine arts education is a trait highly valued by employers in building a 21st century workforce?
 Yes No Undecided Would like more information