

Thomas
RATLIFF
FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 13, 2010

Mr. Robert Floyd
Texas Music Educators Association
P.O. Box 140465
Austin, Texas 78714-0465

Dear Robert:

My wife and I are firm believers that music and art education are beneficial to our children's educations. Both of our children read music, play piano and take private art lessons.

While I support both music and art, I am hesitant to have more rules or regulations on local school districts dictated by Austin or Washington D.C. While I strongly agree that fine arts should be part of every child's education, I don't know that I would support making it mandatory. I would have to study the issue and discuss the issue with local school board members and superintendents in my district to assess the impact on their school districts.

I do not support the removal of students from class for the purpose of TAKS drills. There is far too much emphasis placed on one high-stakes test and taking students out of class to further emphasize this test is not the best use of that student's time at school.

The more information and study we can do regarding fine arts is a good thing. I believe that with more information comes more understanding of the benefits of these types of courses.

If you have any further questions, or would like more information, I am happy to visit with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ratliff