

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.

Return the Questionnaire by October 6:

- We recommend you enter answers to this questionnaire at:
www.tmea.org/CandidateQuestions
- Alternatively, you can complete it below and fax each side to (512) 451-9213.

Name _____ District _____

Benefits of Music Education

The Texas Music Educators Association recently 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 from 2006 to 2011 was significantly higher in schools rated “exemplary” than in schools rated “low performing.” Also, schools with higher student involvement in fine arts had better student attendance and drop-out records. In addition, students selected as Texas All-State musicians have SAT scores over 400 points higher than the state average and over 350 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

Education Priorities

Many believe that being in a school band, orchestra, or choir is an extracurricular activity, yet these are standards-based academic courses for which students receive course credits. State law requires every high school student earn at least one fine arts credit to graduate. However, student enrollment in high school and middle school arts courses has been limited and participation in elementary grades sacrificed to prepare for STAAR tests.

5. Fine arts courses are part of the core curriculum by law and rule for Texas schools. Do you support this policy?

Support Oppose Undecided Would like more info

6. Do you support or oppose removing students from music and other fine arts classes for STAAR test preparation and remediation?

Support Oppose Undecided Would like more info

Legislative Support for Fine Arts

During the 83rd legislative session, Senator Leticia Van de Putte and Representative Marsha Farney cosponsored a fine arts caucus to share the importance of a well-balanced education that includes the arts.

7. Would you be willing to become a member of such a caucus during the 84th session?

Yes No Undecided Would like more info

We welcome your comments:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please submit the questionnaire by October 6.

Enter answers at www.tmea.org/CandidateQuestions

— or —

Fax each side of this form to (512) 451-9213

Responses will be posted on www.GoArts.org after October 10.

2014 State Candidate Questionnaire Response Summary

Fine arts instruction helps improve student performance in other academic courses.			
Yes	No	Undecided	More Info
98.4%	0%	0%	1.6%

Fine arts participation reduces dropout rates.			
Yes	No	Undecided	More Info
98.4%	0%	0%	1.6%

Fine arts study helps prepare students for college.			
Yes	No	Undecided	More Info
100%	0%	0%	0%

Creativity fostered through a fine arts education is valued by employers.			
Yes	No	Undecided	More Info
80.5%	4.5%	7.5%	7.5%

Fine arts courses belong in the core curriculum.			
Support	Oppose	Undecided	More Info
91.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%

Students should be removed from fine arts classes for STAAR preparation and remediation.			
Support	Oppose	Undecided	More Info
4.5%	83.6%	2.9%	9.0%

Candidate is willing to participate in a legislative fine arts caucus.			
Yes	No	Undecided	More Info
83.6%	3.0%	3.0%	10.4%