

Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education Candidate Questionnaire

Go to: tmea.org/2016candidates

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.

Go to tmea.org/2016candidates and complete the questionnaire by October 6

- *Alternatively, you can scan each side and email the file to rfloyd@tmea.org*

Name _____ District _____

Office _____ (House/Senate/SBOE)

Benefits of Music Education

In their document *Voices in the Arts*, the former president of the College Board, Gaston Caperton, states that the study of music, drama, dance and the visual arts help excite and reinforce learning in the subjects beyond the arts, like math, English, and science. He also writes that the arts help teachers reach students across a broad spectrum of learning styles and raise achievement in at-risk students, young children, underserved populations, and students with disabilities. TMEA data shows that 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 and collaboration fostered by a fine arts education are traits highly valued by employers in building a 21st century workforce?
 Yes No Undecided Would like more information

MORE QUESTIONS ON THE BACK →

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 84th legislative session, Senator Eddie Lucio Jr. 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 85th session?

Yes No Undecided Would like more info

We welcome your comments:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please go to tmea.org/2016candidates and complete the survey by October 6.

— *or* —

Scan each side of this form and email the file to rfloyd@tmea.org

Responses will be posted on www.GoArts.org after October 15.

2016 State Candidate Questionnaire Response Summary

Fine arts instruction helps improve student performance in other academic courses.			
Yes	No	Undecided	More Info
98.3%	0%	1.7%	0%

Fine arts participation reduces dropout rates.			
Yes	No	Undecided	More Info
98.3%	1.7%	0%	0%

Fine arts study helps prepare students for college.			
Yes	No	Undecided	More Info
98.3%	0%	1.7%	0%

Creativity fostered through a fine arts education is valued by employers.			
Yes	No	Undecided	More Info
93.2%	1.7%	3.4%	1.7%

Fine arts courses belong in the core curriculum.			
Support	Oppose	Undecided	More Info
96.6%	0%	3.4%	0%

Students should be removed from fine arts classes for STAAR preparation and remediation.			
Support	Oppose	Undecided	More Info
5.2%	77.6%	6.9%	10.3%

Candidate is willing to participate in a legislative fine arts education caucus.			
Yes	No	Undecided	More Info
77.6%	1.7%	10.4%	10.3%