

**Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education**  
**2018 Texas Legislative Candidate Questionnaire**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_(House/Senate/SBOE)

**Benefits of Music Education**

College Board President David Coleman, in a recent address, stated, “There’s no doubt arts education is important and beneficial for college and career readiness. The College Board speaks to schools all across the country to make sure the arts have their rightful place. We need to confess and declare that education is not just about preparing for college and careers. It is a soul craft.” TMEA data shows that schools with higher student involvement in fine arts had better student attendance and drop-out records and higher level of performance in STAAR. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Should students be removed from music and other fine arts classes for STAAR test preparation and remediation?

Yes     No     Undecided     Would like more info

## Legislative Support for Fine Arts

During the 85th legislative session, Senator Eddie Lucio Jr. and Representative Dan Huberty 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 86th session?

Yes     No     Undecided     Would like more info

**We welcome your comments:**

*Thank you for completing this questionnaire.*

# 2018 State Candidate Questionnaire Response Summary

<b>Fine arts instruction helps improve student performance in other academic courses.</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>More Info</b>
98.7%	0%	0%	1.3%

<b>Fine arts participation reduces dropout rates.</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>More Info</b>
97.3%	0.0%	0%	2.7%

<b>Fine arts study helps prepare students for college.</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>More Info</b>
97.3%	0%	0.0%	2.7%

<b>Creativity fostered through a fine arts education is valued by employers.</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>More Info</b>
94.7%	1.3%	1.3%	2.7%

<b>Fine arts courses belong in the core curriculum.</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>More Info</b>
97.3%	0%	0.0%	2.7%

<b>Students should be removed from fine arts classes for STAAR preparation and remediation.</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>More Info</b>
0.0%	88.2%	2.6%	9.2%

<b>Candidate is willing to participate in a legislative fine arts education caucus.</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>More Info</b>
86.7%	0.0%	1.3%	12%