

Spread the Word...

- ♪ A quality education must include the Arts.
- ♪ Florida cannot afford to lose music and fine arts teachers and programs.
- ♪ When music and Fine Arts funding is reduced, then the progress of Florida is impeded.
- ♪ The three-year graduation plan, called the "Accelerated Graduation Option" allows for only three (3) electives, which is not acceptable because it does not provide adequate core education in the public school system for those children who wish to pursue careers in the arts or other elective areas.
- ♪ Reducing electives is not an acceptable method to meet "Class Size Reduction."
- ♪ Ask friends and parents to contact Legislators and...

**Spread the Word;
Let Your Voice Be
Heard!**



1-800-301-FMEA (3632)
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Spread the Word About Music & Fine Arts Education With These Talking Points

- ♪ Ask friends and parents to contact Legislators, to ensure that appropriate funding is allocated to the Fine Arts (music, art, dance and drama).
- ♪ A quality education must include the Arts; Florida cannot afford to lose teachers and programs in music and art.
- ♪ When funding for music and the Arts is reduced or when public schools must cut art and music programs, then you—my elected official—have let me down and impeded the progress of our state.
- ♪ Please ensure that our school districts receive adequate funds for quality educational programs for all students.
- ♪ The Federal "No Child Left Behind Act" includes the Arts as part of the core curriculum.
- ♪ I am depending on you—my elected official—to ensure that Florida's core curriculum includes funding for the Arts and that the 2004 Legislative Budget provides adequate funding for programs and staff.
- ♪ The three-year graduation plan, called the "Accelerated Graduation Option," allows for only three (3) electives, which is not acceptable because it does not provide adequate core education in the public school system for those children who wish to pursue careers in the Arts or other elective areas.
- ♪ I am asking you—my elected official—to be diligent in providing a state budget that ensures an equitable education for all students; if additional revenues need to be raised, *please* have the courage to do so.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has!"

Margaret Meade

**Music & Fine Arts
Education**

How to Be an Advocate



Florida Music Educators' Association



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Advocating Music & Fine Arts Education

We believe that Fine Arts Education (music, art, drama and dance) is part of the curriculum for Florida Students as approved by the Legislature for which schools are to be accountable as defined in the Sunshine State Standards (F.S. 1003.41).

We support the requirement of one full credit in Fine Arts Education for all Florida college admissions and an equal minimum requirement for music and art education in the elementary grades.

We believe Fine Arts Education courses must be taught by certified instructors.

We support accountability in schools for all subjects.

Music programs have been evaluated for more than 75 years in Florida. At present, school music groups participate in Music Performance Assessments that are sanctioned by the Florida School Music Association statewide at which bands, orchestras and choruses are evaluated by certified music adjudicators.

The Florida Music Educators Association and the Florida School Music Association are cooperating with a **Task Force on Assessment**, in an effort to provide a tool for classroom teachers that will demonstrate individual student progress in Grade Level Expectations, which correlate with the Sunshine State Standards.

We support school accountability to provide a complete education for Florida public school students that includes art and music instruction by certified arts educators for every elementary school student (K-6), and for every middle school and high school student to have the opportunity to choose elective classes in music and fine arts.

We want the support of our elected officials to ensure that Fine Arts Education will not be diminished as it has been over the past decade.

We support the creation of the **Florida Arts Education Council** as an advisory body to the Florida Department of Education to evaluate the impact of significant curriculum changes that have occurred in the last decade and to ensure that a rich, broad curriculum is provided to all Florida students.

We support legislation that designates Fine Arts as part of Florida's "core curriculum" due to the empirical studies proving the value of Fine Arts to student academic success, and the value of music and the Arts in learning critical thinking skills, understanding various cultures and tolerating many points of view.

The Arts Produce Jobs, generating an estimated \$37 billion with a return of \$3.4 billion in federal income taxes.

(Source: American Arts Alliance Fact Sheet)

In Florida (1997), the Arts contributed \$1.4 billion to the state's economy.

(Source: The Economic Impact of the Florida Arts and Cultural Industry, Dr. William Stronge, Florida Cultural Action and Education Alliances)

You Can Help . . .

During the Conference: Visit the FMEA Help Desk and write to your legislators.

During January: Schedule an appointment with your Representative and Senator in the local district office. Take along additional Fine Arts supporters to inform and educate each legislator.

During March & April: Invite campus administrators to the Music Performance Assessments sponsored by FBA, FOA and FVA and sanctioned by the Florida School Music Association. They will learn first-hand how music and reading are connected during the sight-reading portion of each event.

At School Board Meetings: Make sure every meeting is attended by a designated Fine Arts Booster who will make brief remarks to ensure that School Board members know the value placed by the community on music and Fine Arts Education.

By Joining MAESTRO: Parents, by joining MAESTRO you will receive regular legislative updates and will be informed of the events taking place during the fast-paced legislative session. We need your assistance to respond to proposed bills and legislation.

By Being E-Alert: Teachers, make sure your E-mail address is accurate in our database and check daily for late-breaking news. Respond to Legislative Alerts. Call your legislators and alert booster groups as requested—it's critical!

Contact information for Florida's Representatives and Senators is found on the Internet at:

www.flmusicd.org/legislative/HouseContacts.aspx
www.flmusicd.org/legislative/SenateContacts.aspx

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Make Known
the Will of the
People