



# Music Advocacy Day



## ACCESSIBILITY TO MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

Accessibility: School day accessibility to music education program should be ensured across the state. MMEA recommends that the Missouri State Board of Education strengthen comprehensive and sequential music instruction in all elementary, middle and high schools.

### Key Points:

- a minimum of 50 minutes of instruction per week for music in all elementary schools,
- a minimum of 3,000 minutes of fine arts instruction in middle schools to be taught to all students,
- a one-credit fine arts graduation requirement in all high schools.
- that all courses are taught by certified music specialists.

### Rationale:

- Music Education has a positive impact on learning and critical thinking. That impact is reduced exponentially when programs are reduced and minimized.
- Music is an integral aspect of our past, present and future culture. Sequential music instruction both maintains past traditions and guides students in newer forms of music making.

### Legislative Request:

- In order to ensure that all students receive a comprehensive education including sequential, standards-based music education as part of the core curriculum, we ask that Missouri legislators maintain music as a core academic subject for our students.

## TEACHER EVALUATION

Teacher Evaluation: Music Educators should be evaluated by qualified individuals utilizing reliable measures germane to their field.

### Key Points:

- Teaching “effectiveness” should be evaluated on the basis of the delivery of the music curriculum as established by the local school district.
- Teachers should only be evaluated in areas in which they are highly qualified and specifically certified.
- Student data from other disciplines (e.g., math, language arts, etc.) should not be tied to music teacher evaluation.
- Music teachers should be assessed by evaluators capable of recognizing effective music teaching pedagogy and measuring student achievement in music.

Rationale:

- Fairness in teacher evaluation benefits everyone: student, teachers, principals, school administrators and school systems.

Legislative Request:

MMEA strongly recommends music teacher evaluation be based on instruction in the music classroom. Standardized testing has no value for music teacher assessment. These factors are not directly associated with a music teacher's influence on student music growth or achievement.

## **DESE FINE ARTS POSITION**

The MMEA recommends that the Missouri Legislature establishes and funds a full time position of Fine Arts Consultant in Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Key Points:

- A music and arts knowledgeable person to help policy decisions that are in the best interest for the arts.
- A music and arts advocate can guide policy on the effective use of music and the arts in the education of all students

## **STEM TO STEAM**

The MMEA recommends that the current STEM Initiative (Science, Technology Engineering & Mathematics) be expanded to include the Arts (STEAM) in order to support the innovation and creativity necessary for students to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

STEAM is an acronym for a philosophy that recognizes the combined benefits of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics. The idea of emphasizing these subjects in delivering the curriculum has been driven by the business community, with the goal of preparing an agile, resourceful and competitive workforce. The arts enhance critical and creative thinking. In the real world, content knowledge is interwoven, layered and sophisticated, not experienced in isolation such as in traditional education settings (separate math time, separate science time, etc.). STEAM skills are vital for success in the 21st century and critical to our collective future. The "Critical C's" of Collaboration, Cooperation and Communication are emphasized through project-based learning, usually through interdisciplinary (across subjects) activities. The integration and expansion of the arts into curricula will better prepare Missouri students for the future.

## **CHARTER SCHOOL**

MMEA believes that all charter school curricula be consistent with best practice in education, and provide students with a comprehensive education, including access to sequential, standards-based music education taught by instructors fully certified in music education.

### Key Points:

- Charter students deserve a full and balanced educational experience that includes music.
- Charter schools are part of the American educational landscape and should be encouraged to incorporate all core academic subjects in a substantive way.

### Legislative Request:

In order to ensure that all students receive a comprehensive education including sequential, standards-based music education as part of the core curriculum we ask that Legislators require charter schools be consistent with instructional time and quality in regards to music art curricula.

## **STUDENT TEACHING CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

MMEA supports intensive experiences for student teaching with adequate experiences across grade levels.

### Key Points:

- Future Music Educators need clinical experiences that are similar to most teaching positions in Missouri where music is taught across grade levels.
- MMEA believes that it is in the best interest of future music educators that contact hours be equally divided between K-6 and 7-12 grade levels.
- MMEA supports student teaching experiences longer than the state-mandated 12 weeks.

### Legislative Request:

In order for our future music educators to be adequately prepared for a typical teaching assignment we ask that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education be encouraged to implement policy changes that allows higher education institutions and public school districts the flexibility needed to provide preservice teachers with student teaching experiences across grade levels and in multiple settings. Recently passed certification rules restrict student teaching to a single classroom which not adequately provide the experience needed for a K-12 certificate.

## **NATIONAL CORE MUSIC STANDARDS**

MMEA supports the adoption of the new National Core Music Standards. The National Standards for Arts Education are a statement of what every young American should know and be able to do in four arts disciplines-dance, music theatre, and the visual arts. Their scope is grades K-12, and they speak to both content and achievement.

### Key Points:

A comprehensive education for all students means students should know and be able to:

- Communicate at a basic level in the four arts discipline-dance, music, theatre, and visual art.
- Be proficient in at least one art form through creating, performing, responding, and making connections.
- Should be familiar with and informed about exemplary works of art from a variety of cultures and historical periods.

Rationale: Curriculum revisions and school reforms are moving toward the adoption of Common Core standards to ensure that young people are college and career ready. The National Core Arts Standards are aligned with the same goals and objectives and will ensure that arts are a vital aspect of preparing our students to be successful and contributing citizens.

### Legislative request:

Support the adoption of the National Core Music Standards in curriculums across Missouri as alternative to the Common Core standards in most Missouri schools. The benefits of music are strengthened by ensuring teaching and learning is rigorous and maintains integrity as a discipline.