



Music Advocacy Day



CHARTER SCHOOL

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

MMEA opposes the expansion of charter schools until such time as the law is revised to ensure that all charter schools are required to meet the standards of accountability and transparency applicable to traditional public schools.

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 well-rounded education including sequential, standards-based music education as part of the core curriculum we ask that Legislators require charter schools be consistent with public schools in regards to music art curriculums. (HB 634)

TAX CREDIT-STYLE VOUCHERS

The Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Account Program allows taxpayers to establish accounts that can be used as a voucher to pay for private school. School vouchers fuel a system of separate and unequal education, using public dollars to fund schools that cannot serve all students. MMEA believes that every child must be provided with a well-rounded, high-quality education, which will ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and become productive members of society. Access to a free public education is the most effective method of securing this opportunity, and should not be denied to any child. (SB 32)

HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

MMEA has concerns with SB 173 in which home-schooled students have the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity within the district that they currently reside.

Key points:

- Determining student eligibility. All students must be held to the same eligibility standards when determining participation in school sponsored activities.

MISSOURI FINE ARTS LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

MMEA supports the adoption/adaptation of the new National 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.

The 2014 Music Standards are all about *Music Literacy*. The standards emphasize conceptual understanding in areas that reflect the actual processes in which musicians engage.

- Creating,
- Performing
- Responding

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.
- Should be familiar with and informed about exemplary works of art from a variety of cultures and historical periods.

Legislative ask: support the revision of the Missouri Fine Arts Learning Expectations.

RESTORE FUNDING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

MMEA asks that Legislators amend Gov. Greitens budget cuts for higher education and restore necessary funding. State support for higher education has not kept pace with inflation. Funding has consistently dropped in the past 17 years. According to Missouri statutes colleges are not allowed to raise tuition above the rate of inflation. Music education and exposure to the arts are drastically affected by these proposed cuts.

ACCESSIBILITY TO MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

Accessibility: School day accessibility to music education program should be increased across the state. MMEA recommends that the Missouri State Board of Education supports comprehensive sequential music instruction in 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. That impact is reduced exponentially when programs are reduced and treated like an afterthought.

Legislative Request:

- In order to ensure that all students receive a comprehensive well-rounded 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.