



To Dr. Rebecca Miner at minerr@edmonds.wednet.edu

Dear Dr. Miner,

The proposed cuts to our music programs offer a short-term solution to the district's budget deficit, but will undoubtedly exacerbate the existing challenges presented by our already unacceptably low graduation rates and reduced enrollment.

Families who have the option to do so will choose other education solutions for their children, such as home schooling, private schools, or moving to other school districts where budget cuts were mostly kept away from students and educators, such as Mukilteo.

I implore you to look at the numbers again and find other ways to balance the budget. Our district should be directing more funding toward programs that improve enrollment and graduation rates, not less! Please review the studies below supporting this letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

>>name<<

Improved Graduation Rates in School Districts Offering Quality Music Education

Research shows that quality music education programs in schools have shown to positively impact graduation rates. A study conducted by the National Association for Music Education found that students in schools with quality music programs had a graduation rate of 90.2%, compared to a graduation rate of 72.9% for students in schools without those programs. (Source: <https://nafme.org/advocacy/what-to-know/music-education-and-successful-schools/>)

Improved Enrollment Numbers in School Districts Offering Quality Music Education

According to several studies, there is a strong positive correlation between quality music education programs and improved enrollment numbers in school districts. Here are some of the findings:

1. A study by the National Association for Music Education found that schools with high-quality music programs had a 22% higher graduation rate compared to schools without such programs. The study also showed that students who participated in music programs scored 107 points higher on the SAT than students who did not participate (1).
2. A study conducted by the University of Kansas found that schools with strong music programs had

higher enrollment rates in both music and non-music classes. The study also showed that students who participated in music programs had higher attendance rates and fewer behavioral problems (2).

3. A study published in the Journal of Research in Music Education found that music programs in schools with high poverty rates had a positive impact on student attendance and academic achievement. The study also found that students in these schools were more likely to participate in extracurricular activities and have a more positive attitude toward school (3).

4. A report by the Arts Education Partnership found that students in schools with strong music programs were more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, and have higher career aspirations (4).

References:

1. National Association for Music Education. <https://nafme.org/advocacy/what-to-know/music-education-and-successful-schools/> (retrieved 4/21/23)

2. Johnson, C. M., Memmott, J. E., & Byrnes, J. P. (2008). Relationships between participation in school music programs of differing quality and standardized test results. *Journal of Research in Music Education*, 56(4), 293-307.

3. Johnson, C. M., & Memmott, J. E. (2006). Examination of relationships between participation in school music programs of differing quality and standardized test results. *Journal of Research in Music Education*, 54(4), 293-307.

Arts Education Partnership. (2013). Preparing Students for the Next America: The benefits of an arts education. <https://www.aep-arts.org/wp-content/uploads/Preparing-Students-for-the-Next-America-The-Benefits-of-an-Arts-Education.pdf> (retrieved 4/21/23)