

STATE ADVOCACY ALERT 2010-07

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Take action to secure expanded arts education learning opportunities for Florida students.

SB 820 revises the basis for the designation of school performance grades to include participation rates of students who are enrolled in fine arts courses. Senate Bill 820 provides an incentive for schools to provide time and access for student participation in the **fine arts** and *would not cost any money or be a mandate*. SB 820 would provide for bonus points on the school grade for schools that increase the participation rate of eligible students in fine arts courses.

1. Secure yes votes for SB 820 *before March 17* from Senators who serve on the Florida Senate Committee on Education Pre-K-12.

2. Please *call and e-mail* members of the Senate Committee on Education Pre-K-12 before they are scheduled to meet at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17.

Please refer to the [sample message](#) below and contact information for all the members of the Senate Committee on Education Pre-K-12.

SAMPLE MESSAGE

to Use In Calls and/or in E-mails - please personalize your message:

Dear Senator _____,

I urge you to please vote yes on SB 820 when it comes before the Senate Committee on Education Pre-K-12 this Wednesday, March 17, at 8:00 a.m. SB 820 provides an incentive for schools to provide time and access for student participation in the fine arts and *would not cost any money or be a mandate*.

A 2007-2008 study was conducted by the Florida Department of Education that included 188,859 students of the 2007-2008 12th grade class. These Florida students' participation in fine arts courses were examined and evaluated. This FDOE study clearly demonstrates a consistent pattern in students' performances in accordance with

participation in the fine arts: *The more years in fine arts courses, the better student achievement on the FCAT and the SAT and the more likely a student is to graduate. The positive results of this study are true for students on free and reduced lunch and for students disaggregated by ethnicity.*

SB 820 would provide for bonus points on the school grade for schools that increase the participation rate of eligible students in fine arts courses. The specifics of this bill will be determined by DOE rule.

I hope SB 820 will gain your yes vote this Wednesday in the Senate Committee on Education Pre-K-12 meeting. If passed this legislative session, the provisions of this bill will help *improve and strengthen the success of both our students and schools.*

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Your Name
Address
Phone Number
E-mail address

Members of the Senate Committee on Education Pre-K-12 are:

Chairman Nancy Detert

Co-introducer of SB 820 -- thank her for her support and leadership on arts education issues

detert.nancy.web@flsenate.gov

(850) 487-5081

Vice Chairwoman Frederica S. Wilson

wilson.frederica.web@flsenate.gov

(850) 487-5116

Senator Larcenia J. Bullard

bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov

(850) 487-5127

Senator Lee Constantine

constantine.lee.web@flsenate.gov

(850) 487-5050

Senator Don Gaetz

gaetz.don.web@flsenate.gov

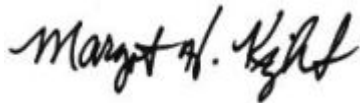
(850) 487-5009

Senator Ronda Storms
storms.ronda.web@flsenate.gov
(850) 487-5072

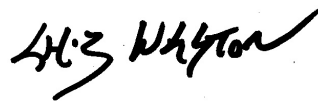
Senator John Thrasher
thrasher.john.web@flsenate.gov
(850) 487-5030

Senator Stephen R. Wise
Sponsor of SB 820
wise.stephen.web@flsenate.gov
(850) 487-5027

*Thank you so much for your commitment to arts, arts
education, and cultural development
throughout Florida.*



Margot H. Knight
President & CEO



Chip Weston
Government Affairs
