



Metro Nashville Public Schools

Music Makes Us -- School Board Resolution

Whereas, Metro Nashville Public Schools is committed to providing all students with the foundation of knowledge, skills and character needed to excel in higher education, work and life; and

Whereas, Metro Schools has embraced the Common Core Standards to equip students with 21st Century skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity; and

Whereas, multiple research studies make clear that students who participate in a rigorous, sequential, standards-based visual and performing arts education develop the ability to innovate, communicate, and collaborate; and

Whereas, such music education in schools improves test scores, increases graduation rates and helps close achievement gaps among student groups; and

Whereas, research shows music enhances cognitive development in many areas, including verbal skills and social emotional learning; and

Whereas, research indicates low income students with in-depth music and arts involvement earn better grades, are more likely to attend college, develop greater self esteem and are more engaged in civic affairs; and

Whereas, Metro Schools is committed to increasing parent and community engagement in schools in support of student learning; and

Whereas student performances and music events bring school staff and families together in engaging, community-centered school environments; and

Whereas, the Board of Education and the Director of Schools are committed to ensuring all students are prepared to compete for jobs in the local music and creative economy; and

Whereas, with more than 80 record labels, 130 music publishers, 180 recording studios and some 5,000 working union musicians, Nashville is known as Music City with the music industry's total economic impact in Middle Tennessee at \$6.4 billion per year, providing 54,000 jobs according to a 2006 study; and

Whereas, music performance, composition, distribution, promotion, production, training, education, artists' rights groups, live music venues and equipment repair and production jobs require mastery of 21st Century Skills; and

Whereas, almost 60 percent of Metro Schools students are enrolled in music classes, including all elementary students; 33 percent of middle school students; and 29 percent of high school students and

this year the district is investing \$13 million for more than 200 staff; and

Whereas, Music Makes Us, a public-private partnership with Metro Schools, the Mayor's office and the music industry supports student engagement and achievement through high quality music education with both a traditional music curriculum and a contemporary curriculum that uses new technologies and reflects a diverse musical landscape; and

Whereas, the Mayor's Office, private philanthropy, local nonprofit music and arts advocacy organizations, musicians, parents, higher education and teachers are critical to increasing the availability, quality and vitality of music education in Metro Schools; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that to assure access to quality music instruction and meet achievement goals, the Board of Education will affirm music education as an essential component of every student's education;

Resolved further, within the next three years, all Kindergarten through Grade 12 students in Metro Schools will have opportunities to participate in high quality music instruction that is standards-based, sequential, taught by highly qualified music educators and enhanced by a network of music professionals, music industry and community based organizations from the Nashville community;

Resolved further, to have a world class music education program Metro Schools will engage more students in music, reflect our diverse community, strengthen legacy programs in chorus, band and orchestra, and excite students around new and emerging music technologies;

Resolved further, non-traditional music courses will be offered in every cluster based on student population, administrative support, and availability of instructors and resources with every middle and high school eventually having at least one non-traditional music pathway and all schools will have partnerships with community-based organizations;

Resolved further, Music Makes Us will foster high expectations and a reputation for excellence in music education using clearly defined standards and accountability measures to ensure equitable access to a world class music program.

This resolution shall take effect immediately for the benefit of all students in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.