

June 6, 2017

The Honorable Kansen Chu
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: Support

Location: Senate Education Committee

Re: AB 385 (Chu) Pupil data: visual and performing arts (As Amended May 24, 2017)

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

On behalf of the California Alliance for Arts Education I am writing to express our support for AB 385 (Chu), legislation which would require each county office of education to provide local control and accountability plan guidance to its respective school districts related to the collection and dispersal of elementary arts education data, based on examples of school districts currently reporting elementary data.

In addition the legislation would require a school district to make available to the public enrollment and completion data specifically related to visual and performing arts offered by the school district for pupils in kindergarten and any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive, that is currently being collected through CALPADS.

This information will present a more complete picture of the current delivery system, enabling advocates and decision makers at the local level to make decisions impacting the lives of students. The data will illuminate where inequities exist regarding access to arts offerings, regardless of whether this inequity is based on race, geography or economic conditions.

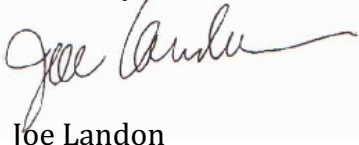
The first step to reducing inequities is to make the inequity visible and specific. By being able to highlight specific inequity for specific schools the conversation moves from very general to very specific. By making inequities visible we empower communities past the first step of recognizing there is a problem. Once the inequity is revealed the community may then develop strategies and plans to address the issue.

If people agree that every child in California should have a quality education that includes the arts, how will we know if this is indeed the case if the state does not even bother to count elementary students which make up 1/2 the student population, adding up to over 3 million kids? That is the goal of this legislation, to capture a fuller picture of our schools and the education all our students receive.

The California Alliance for Arts Education is in its fifth decade of working to build a brighter future for our state by making the arts a core part of every child's quality education. A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes California's abundance of arts and culture experts to advocate for quality visual and performing arts instruction for all students. By collaborating effectively with the state's leading education and parent engagement agencies and providing an anchor for policy expertise at the state and local levels, the Alliance is the leader in promoting the arts in schools and enriching the lives of children, families and communities.

Please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Landon", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Joe Landon
Executive Director

cc: Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Mr. Ian Johnson, Consultant, Senate Education Committee
Mr. Roger Mackensen, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate
California Alliance for Arts Education