

April 7, 2017

The Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: Support

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Re: SB 777 (Allen) School accountability: professional development: visual and performing arts (As Introduced February 17, 2017)

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the California Alliance for Arts Education I am writing to express our support for SB 777, legislation that would require the State Department of Education to establish a statewide program to provide professional development training to assist school districts and county boards of education with offering instruction in visual and performing arts and including information about courses offered in visual and performing arts in a local control and accountability plan.

We recognize that it is the intent of Senator Allen to expand the substance of this bill over time, to address how the state of California might implement education code language requiring that the adopted course of study for all students in grades 1-6 shall include instruction in visual and performing arts (Ed Code Section 51210 (e)); and that the adopted course of study for students in grades 7 to 12 shall offer courses in the visual and performing arts (Ed Code Section 51220 (g)).

We look forward to working with Senator Allen in the months to come to develop strategies that will articulate a pathway towards implementation to ensure that every student in California receive the benefits of arts education as a core component of a complete education

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
Senate Appropriations Committee
Ms. Cheryl Black, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate
California Alliance for Arts Education