



## Music For Minors

### The Value of Music Education

- Music in the schools has a ripple effect and actually improves many students' performance in other subjects. (*Herbert Kupferburg, "The New Sounds of Success in School," San Jose Mercury News, Feb. 28, 1999*)
- Surveys demonstrate that early exposure to music can enhance abilities in areas from reading readiness to math proficiency. (*Gardiner, Fox, Jeffrey, & Knowles (Brown University), as reported in Nature, May 23, 1996*)
- Recent studies indicate that music education dramatically improves a child's ability to solve complex math and science problems. (*Shaw, Rauscher, Levine, Wright, Dennis, & Newcomb (University of California-Irvine), "Music Training Causes Long-Term Enhancement of Preschool Children's Spatial-Temporal Reasoning," Neurological Research, Vol. 19, February 1997*)
- Students who participate in music programs score significantly higher on standardized tests, scoring 57 points higher on the verbal portion of the SAT and 41 points higher on the math portion than other students. Scores for those with coursework in music appreciation were 63 points higher on the verbal and 44 points higher on the math. (*College-Bound Seniors National Report: Profile of SAT Program Test Takers, Princeton New Jersey: The College Entrance Examination Board, 2001*)
- Students receiving music education are also less likely to be involved in gangs, drugs or alcohol abuse, and have better attendance in school. (*Research by Kevin Thompson, North Dakota State University, cited in Congressional Resolution 380, May 5, 2004*)
- Music participants, on average, receive more academic honors and higher grades than do students in the general population. (*National Educational Longitudinal Study, First Follow-Up, Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics, 1990*)
- Music encourages creativity, imagination, and emotional response. These areas are important for success throughout life. (*Norman Weinberger, "Creating Creativity with Music," Musica Research Notes, Vol. 2, Sep. 1998*)
- Arts education develops collaborative and teamwork skills, technological competencies, flexible thinking, and an appreciation for diversity. (*"Educating for the Workplace through the Arts," Business Week, October 28, 1996.*)

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## Music For Minors Trends in California Music Education

- In the five-year period between 1999 and 2004, participation in *General Music* courses, designed to bring basic music knowledge and skills to young students, declined in California by 85.5%, representing a loss of 264,821 students. (*Music For All Foundation. "The Sound of Silence - The Unprecedented Decline of Music Education in California Public Schools," 2004.*)
- California students lag behind the national average in hours of arts instruction--up to 50% less in music and visual arts instruction at the elementary level.
- 29% of California's schools do not offer a standards-based course of study in any of the four arts disciplines: music, visual arts, dance, and theater.
- 89% of California's schools fail to offer a standards-based course of study in all four disciplines, falling short of state goals.
- 61% of schools do not have even one full-time equivalent arts specialist.
- Enrollment in arts courses has remained stable over the past 6 years, with the exception of music, which has seen a dramatic decline.
- Students attending high poverty schools have less access to arts instruction than peers in more affluent communities.

*(SRI, Center for Education Policy. "An Unfinished Canvas, Arts Education in California: Taking Stock of Policies and Practices," commissioned by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, 2007.)*

- 9 in 10 adults in Santa Clara County say arts education classes should be required for school children along with English, math, science, and other courses. (*Survey and Policy Research Institute poll. Cultural Initiatives Silicon Valley, 2005.*)

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