



WHEREAS, the arts, including dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, are defined as a subject in Washington state's definition of basic education, and considered an essential component of the complete and balanced education for all students; and

WHEREAS, learning in and through the arts enables students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, imagination and creativity, discipline, alternative ways to communicate and express feelings and ideas, and cross-cultural understanding, which supports academic success across the curriculum as well as personal growth outside the classroom; and

WHEREAS, imagination and creativity are increasingly understood as critical capacities needed for success in the 21st century workforce; and

WHEREAS, the arts can transform our schools into havens of creativity and exploration – places where students want to learn, teachers want to teach, and all members of the learning community are more engaged and motivated; and

WHEREAS, high quality school-based arts education involves a wide range of partners, including parents, teachers, School Boards, administrators, educators, artists and arts organizations, community members, and local businesses and organizations, whose collective endeavors towards equitable provision of arts learning for all students we celebrate and promote; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the efforts and dedication of arts educators and advocates around the state, and we call for school and community leaders to continue to broaden and strengthen their commitment to provide arts education for every student

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we, the Washington State Congress of Parents and Teachers, also known as the Washington State PTA, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2012 as Arts Education Month in the state of Washington; and

Be it further resolved, that Washington State PTA calls upon all of its 143,000 members, 900 local units and 32 councils to celebrate and promote the arts in our schools and to take action to provide equitable access to arts learning for all students in our learning community.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Washington State PTA on the 6th day of February, 2012.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Novella Fraser".

Novella Fraser, President
Washington State PTA