

# #42

COMPLETE

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**Q1** Which of these arts did you have as part of your K-12 education? **Music,**  
**Theatre,**  
**Visual Arts**

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**Q2** How did learning in the arts impact your education and life after high school??

The arts provided me with opportunities to learn through a different medium as a young person. It was also an effective way to release stress, increase focus, and create.

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**Q3** How would you describe the current status of arts education in your district? What's good, and where is there room for improvement?The arts (dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts) are a core subject in our state definition of basic education, and in federal law.(1) However, the reality is that many schools are not providing adequate arts instruction.(2)

In our district we have some great opportunities to work with local artist and pull their expertise into our schools. These partnerships serve multiple purposes and are truly beneficial to all involved. We also have theater and music programs that produce excellent results. However, these excellent programs are too limited. Some elementary students only receive 30 minutes of music each week for 16 weeks. Music is so important in and of itself, and it can have such a powerful impact on mathematical and creative thinking. This is one of those areas that should be more broadly available in our schools.

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**Q4** How would you describe your role in ensuring that there is an equitable provision of standards-based arts instruction for all students in your district? What strategies would you use to support this?A well-rounded curriculum is a key part of a high-quality education. However, studies(3) show that over the past decade the arts have been crowded out of the school day.

The school board's role in ensuring equitable provision of arts-based education can be seen in the availability, implementation and quality of programs across the district. Because of the extra emphasis placed on the academic core subjects, the arts have suffered. We need more focus on educating the whole child and a large part of that includes the arts. The board can set priorities for the district and a focus on the arts and their contribution to child development must be central.

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## DO VOTERS KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON ARTS EDUCATION?

**Q5** How do you see the arts playing a role in student success in your district? Extensive research (4) has shown that arts education increases student engagement. It helps close opportunity gaps, reduces dropout rates, helps more students be college-ready, and develops the creativity needed in the 21st-century workforce.

The arts help us to build the leaders of tomorrow. The arts contribute to the development of critical and creative thinking skills as well as problem solving mindsets. These are essential qualities for all students to have as they become adults and decide their place in the world.

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**Q6** If elected, which of these strategies would you consider for supporting arts education in your district? (Check all that apply)

**Research current arts programs and assess needs at district buildings.**

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**Work for a budget to financially support arts instruction at all schools.**

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**Find opportunities under ESSA to use federal funds to support arts education.**

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**Share research about the benefits of arts learning with colleagues.**

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**Q7** Please enter your name and school district.

Name

**Leslie Huff**

School District, Position Number

**Olympia 3**

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