

#46

COMPLETE

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Email: mikewiser@spokaneschools.org
IP Address: 67.185.34.186

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Q1 Which of these arts did you have as part of your K-12 education?

Media Arts,
Music,
Theatre,
Visual Arts

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

I most appreciated the use of arts in combination with English and Social Studies' classes. Projects that included making videos in teams, acting out literature, and using mixed media to summarize learning all helped both reinforce the materials and bring the topics to life. These experiences also gave me tools and skills that I carried on to college and continue to use in work to help communicate ideas in creative ways.

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)

Overall arts education is fairly well supported in District 81. Spokane Schools has added 30 minutes to the elementary school day three years ago. This has enabled more time for art classes at the elementary level. However, the push to lower class sizes has limited space for dedicated art rooms. Too often, "art on a cart" is used to address facilities limitations. Each new capital bond and long-range facilities plan should therefore ensure that classrooms for the arts are available for each new generation of students.

Another area to explore is the creation of an art-based option program. Spokane Schools is a portfolio district with several choice programs available, such as Montessori, STEM, parent-involvement, and dual-language. We do not yet have an arts-focused school and I support investigation into such a program.

DO VOTERS KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON ARTS EDUCATION?

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.

Our district has many tool and measures of success and progress for math, English language arts, and science. I am not aware of similar measures for arts education, and while I wouldn't advocate for standardized testing for art, I would like to better understand our existing measures of success. One strategy that our board could utilize is to ask for a formal review of our arts program as is done periodically with various district wide programs. The board should understand arts participation, options available, staffing, and how we compare to other districts.

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.

Arts education has two main roles, first as its own discipline to enable students to experience a variety of art mediums, discover their interests, and develop their talents. Second, arts are incorporated into other academic subjects to enhance and reinforce content. Interweaving the arts helps ensure that education is engaging while improving student ability to analyze and think independently and critically.

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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Utilize arts organizations to support arts instruction and professional development for classroom teachers.

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Develop or update a district level arts plan. Outline policies, goals, and strategies for implementing arts education for all students.

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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

Mike Wiser

School District, Position Number

District 81, Position 5