

#16

COMPLETE

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

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

Music was my most important subject in high school. It was the reason I went on to receive three degrees in music, and make it my career. Music holds me accountable, develops friendships and leadership skills, and makes life more beautiful.

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)

Arts education is comprehensive in the Aberdeen School District. Opportunities in art, theater, and music are available at all grade levels. Art and music are well staffed at the secondary level, but theater, dance, and art (especially at the elementary level) is lacking in support. I would strongly support a greater emphasis on art educators at all levels, and increase funding for elementary dance, art, theater, and music. Lastly, art education supporting diverse cultures would be a greater focus.

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.

Ultimately, the decision to fully fund arts education in the Aberdeen School District will come from the community. Aberdeen historically supports the annual levy, which often cites arts funding as a key component for district needs. As a comprehensive arts education is part of basic education, school administrators will need to be reminded about the importance of increased opportunities district-wide.

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.

As a music teacher for the past 28 years, 22 in K-12, I see first-hand how important arts education is for our students. Arts education builds confidence in students, allows them to ask questions without always having to provide an answer, shows their creative side, and builds sustaining friendships. These attributes will keep kids in school, and produce creative, thoughtful graduates.

DO VOTERS KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON ARTS EDUCATION?

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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- Find opportunities under ESSA to use federal funds to support arts education.**
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- Create a local arts education task-force.** ,
- 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

William Dyer

School District, Position Number

Aberdeen School District, position 4
