

Dear House Education Committee Members:

As a high school Visual Arts Educator, I write this to urge you to support H-7020, the Transparency in Arts Access and Proficiency Act.

"Art does not solve problems, but makes us aware of their existence," sculptor Magdalena Abakanowicz once said. Arts education provides students with critical thinking and problem solving skills. In addition, it enables students to understand that there is more than one way to solve a problem. This is certainly a skill that ALL society would benefit from possessing.

Students that participate in the Arts achieve benefits in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skill. Arts learning can also During my nineteen years as an art educator I have witnessed Improvements in students motivation, concentration, confidence, and collaboration.

Prior to becoming an art educator, I was employed in marketing and advertising at Hasbro Toy. Students participating in the Arts possess skills that certainly would be carry well into their futures.

H 7020 offers a path for the legislature to rectify many unintended consequences of current RI education legislation, by:

1. increasing access and strengthening opportunity in the arts,
2. addressing the need for citizens to have access to key already existing data about their children's arts opportunity, and
3. providing a staff person in the DOE to assist schools in improving their students' arts education.

The H7020 bill provides an opportunity for the RI legislature to correct past oversights and ensure a higher-quality, more complete core education for every Rhode Island student.

Thank you for your consideration and opportunity to provide RI student artists with continued arts education which will last their lifetimes.

Sincerely,
Susan M. Kolenda
Visual Arts Educator
Lincoln High School

From: SUSAN KOLENDA <kolendas@lincolnps.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:28 PM

To: House Education Committee <HouseEducation@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: House Bill is H-7020 — Transparency in Arts Education Access and Proficiency Act.