

**Senator Karen Hale** proposes to substitute the following bill:

**RESOLUTION ON FUNDING THE ARTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

2000 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Karen Hale**

D. Edgar Allen

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO ADOPT WRITTEN POLICIES THAT IMPLEMENT THE FINE ARTS CORE CURRICULUM AND TO WORK WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO IDENTIFY RESOURCES TO ADEQUATELY PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING OF ARTS PROGRAMS IN THE STATE'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, recent national studies have confirmed that students with high levels of arts participation outperform students who have had little or no involvement with the arts by virtually every measure;

WHEREAS, people learn in many different ways, and the arts provide a wide variety of ways to successfully learn, increasing student self confidence and the potential to learn more;

WHEREAS, the arts require that students learn self-motivation and self-discipline that the students can apply to other courses and encourage students to aim high and achieve academic excellence in all subjects through performing in music, dance, visual art, theater, and creative writing;

WHEREAS, research shows that the arts actually stimulate neurological development,

28 which is important to all areas of learning, and that the important thinking and learning skills that  
29 are taught through the arts enhance a student's ability to solve problems, make decisions, ask  
30 questions and analyze information, evaluate the student's own work, and complete complex and  
31 multi-faceted projects;

32 WHEREAS, arts education teaches students to work cooperatively as a team and unites  
33 students from diverse walks of life through the common and shared language of dance, music, folk  
34 and ethnic arts;

35 WHEREAS, children are calmer, more teachable because of the physical, emotional, and  
36 creative outlets the arts offer;

37 WHEREAS, the arts develop creativity, and creative problems-solving skills that are  
38 needed in all areas of living and working;

39 WHEREAS, recent research has shown that students who are not having positive  
40 experiences in their traditional academic classroom settings often become high achievers in arts  
41 learning settings and that success in the arts becomes a bridge to learning and eventual success in  
42 other areas of learning;

43 WHEREAS, an arts education builds specific workforce skills that business values and it  
44 also builds values that connect children to themselves and to their own culture and civilization;

45 WHEREAS, the public is demanding more than ever from our public schools, wanting to  
46 equip young people for professionally and personally rewarding careers, and it recognizes that to  
47 do so those young people must be given greatly enriched experiences; and

48 WHEREAS, researchers have confirmed that young people can be better prepared for the  
49 21st Century through quality learning experiences in and through the arts:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature expresses its support for the  
51 State Board of Education and local school boards to adopt written polices to implement the fine  
52 arts core curriculum and to collaborate with state and local government, business, and community  
53 leaders to identify and secure financial resources to adequately fund the implementation of the fine  
54 arts core curriculum in the state's public schools.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages the State Board of  
56 Education and local school boards to cooperatively develop a plan to strengthen arts education  
57 throughout the public education system.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the State Board of

59   ~~h [education]~~ EDUCATION ~~h~~ and the state's ~~h [forth]~~ FORTY ~~h~~ local school boards.