

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 38 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY COMITTA, HUGHES, BROWN, CAPPELLETTI, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, KANE, SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, KEARNEY, BARTOLOTTA, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, HAYWOOD, HUTCHINSON AND STREET, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2023 as "Music in Our Schools
2 Month," "Theater in Our Schools Month," "Dance in Our Schools
3 Month" and "Youth Art Month" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Arts education experiences have substantive effects
5 on student academic, social and emotional outcomes; and

6 WHEREAS, Social and emotional learning skills are more
7 necessary than ever as the world emerges from the COVID-19
8 pandemic; and

9 WHEREAS, Research and studies have shown that engagement in
10 arts education has a positive impact on student discipline,
11 standardized writing scores and compassion and empathy for
12 others; and

13 WHEREAS, The Every Student Succeeds Act recognizes fine arts
14 programs as fulfilling the requirement that each school provide
15 a well-rounded education to students; and

16 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, students in grades K-12 must
17 be provided with instruction in fine arts disciplines, including

1 music, dance, theater and visual art; and

2 WHEREAS, Students who took four years of art classes in high
3 school scored an average of 92 points higher on SATs than
4 students' peers; and

5 WHEREAS, Students with high levels of arts involvement are
6 less likely to drop out of school; and

7 WHEREAS, Disadvantaged students who receive an arts education
8 are three times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree than
9 students who lack those experiences; and

10 WHEREAS, The study of music engages students in creative,
11 cultural, aesthetic, intellectual, social, physical and
12 emotional development; and

13 WHEREAS, Music education helps develop students' skills
14 critical to 21st century learning for success in school and
15 life; and

16 WHEREAS, These skills are integral to the economy of this
17 Commonwealth; and

18 WHEREAS, The National Association for Music Education is
19 leading the conversation nationwide on the importance of quality
20 music education in schools; and

21 WHEREAS, Theater education teaches invaluable skills needed
22 to be successful in the workforce, including the ability to
23 listen, artistic sense, nonverbal communication, enthusiasm and
24 storytelling; and

25 WHEREAS, Drama instruction integrated into elementary
26 classrooms improves students' social and emotional development
27 and contributes to a positive classroom culture; and

28 WHEREAS, English language learners in kindergarten through
29 second grade who received weekly drama lessons demonstrated
30 increased listening and speaking skills on standardized tests;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Reading play scripts out loud has been found to help
3 at-risk middle school students become better readers; and

4 WHEREAS, Only 28% of public high schools in high-poverty
5 areas offer theater instruction; and

6 WHEREAS, The Educational Theatre Association envisions every
7 student will have access to theater taught by qualified
8 educators as a vital part of a well-rounded education and is
9 dedicated to shaping lives through theater education; and

10 WHEREAS, Education in the art of dance develops the knowledge
11 and skills required to create, perform and understand movement
12 as a means of artistic communication; and

13 WHEREAS, A comprehensive education in dance includes
14 improvisation, technique, choreography, performance, observation
15 and analysis; and

16 WHEREAS, Dance education engages the artistic processes of
17 creating, performing and critical analysis by requiring students
18 to read symbol systems, use critical thinking skills, excel in
19 nonverbal reasoning and communication, exchange ideas, work
20 cooperatively and collaboratively with others and interact in a
21 multicultural society; and

22 WHEREAS, Student achievement, teacher satisfaction and school
23 culture are improved through dance education as demonstrated by
24 increased reading and STEM test scores, improved memory
25 retention and cognitive connections and enhanced teacher and
26 school morale; and

27 WHEREAS, The National Dance Education Organization is
28 dedicated to advancing dance education for individuals of all
29 backgrounds; and

30 WHEREAS, Visual arts education is valuable in developing

divergent and critical thinking, multicultural awareness and technical, communication and expressive skills among students; and

WHEREAS, The Council for Art Education promotes quality school visual art education programs in grades K-12 across the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Council for Art Education "Youth Art Month" theme for 2023 is "Art Connects Us"; and

WHEREAS, "Youth Art Month" exists to recognize art education as a viable factor in the total education curriculum and to direct attention to the value of art education for divergent and critical thinking; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2023 as "Music in Our Schools Month," "Theater in Our Schools Month," "Dance in Our Schools Month" and "Youth Art Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize schools and certified arts educators in efforts to provide more robust, comprehensive arts education curriculum for students in grades K-12; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the positive impact that music, theater, dance and visual art education have on communities and students across this Commonwealth to help raise awareness regarding the need for access to quality programs for all students regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity or ability.