
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 59 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY COMITTA, BROWNE, HUGHES, FONTANA, MARTIN,
BREWSTER, KEARNEY, KANE, COSTA, STREET, YUDICHAK AND
SANTARSIERO, APRIL 8, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 8, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2021 as "Music in Our Schools
2 Month," "Theatre 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 their students; and

16 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, students in grades K-12 must
17 be provided with instruction in fine arts disciplines, including
18 music, dance, theatre and visual art; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, Visual arts education is valuable in developing
30 divergent and critical thinking, multicultural awareness and

1 technical, communication and expressive skills among students;
2 and

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

6 WHEREAS, The Council for Art Education "Youth Art Month"
7 theme for 2021 is "Art Connects Us"; and

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

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2021
13 as "Music in Our Schools Month," "Theatre in Our Schools Month,"
14 "Dance in Our Schools Month" and "Youth Art Month" in
15 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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

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