

Dear Principal [insert principal's name here],

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan penned a letter in August 2009

<http://www.artseducation.org/ArneDuncanArtsEdLetter.pdf>

in support of arts education. This letter can serve as a reminder to education administrators that Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title I funds may be used to fund music education in our schools. The Secretary writes,

“At this time when you are making critical and far-reaching budget and program decisions for the upcoming school year, I write to bring to your attention the importance of the arts as a core academic subject and part of a complete education for all students. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) defines the arts as a core subject, and the arts play a significant role in children’s development and learning process.”

“Under ESEA, states and local school districts have the flexibility to support the arts. Title I, Part A of ESEA funds arts education to improve the achievement of disadvantaged students. Funds under Title II of ESEA can be used for professional development of arts teachers as well as for strategic partnerships with cultural, arts and other nonprofit organizations.”

I hope you will pursue these funds for music education because, as you may already know, research shows that children who receive a comprehensive, sequential music education taught by exemplary music educators do better in overall school achievement, social development, success in society, and earning potential.

Music helps prepare young minds to think creatively, learn how to work collaboratively, and to become disciplined, critical thinkers and problem solvers – skills needed in the 21st century economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[insert your name here]

