

Public Comment Handouts on R277-700

WRITTEN PUBLIC HANDOUTS RECEIVED ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

Why are the arts being de-emphasized (not core, or central to the Junior High/Middle School curriculum) by our state school board? I can't even come up with a reasonable answer. Please understand that I am speaking mainly about the fine arts, being a former music educator however, there are also relevant arguments that can be made in favor of physical education and health being returned to their former status as core subjects.

I find it quite ironic that Japan and China are racking their brains to get increased fine arts training for their children so they can be more creative like their American counterparts. We, on the other hand, are passing our Asian counterparts moving the opposite direction.

Several years ago, I attended a lecture by David McCullough (at Northridge High School), the author of *1776*. McCullough alluded to an event that happened some time ago in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For some reason, probably budgetary, arts programs in their public schools were on the chopping block. Eventually, the issue ended up in the courts and a judge was left to make the decision as to the fate of the arts in Massachusetts schools.

The Constitution of Massachusetts states: "...it shall be the duty of legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of this commonwealth, to *cherish* the interests of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries of them; especially the university at Cambridge, public schools, and grammar-schools in the towns..." (Italics added.) The judge's decision to save the arts in the schools in Massachusetts dealt with one word... *cherish*. One can't learn to cherish without the arts.

Instead of looking forward to some utopia where all children can pass cookie-cutter tests in cookie-cutter schools, we should look back to the time when American schools were the envy of the world. Then, children were nurtured and allowed to be creative. English was "language arts." Math and science were the gateway to innovation and discovery.

In the social sciences, the students were given time to explore the past, analyze the present with an open mind and dream of the future. The arts were more than "filler" to plug in a student's schedule when there is nothing else to do.

Aesthetic experiences are elusive, wonderful, magical, amazing, powerful, spontaneous and essential. The elements that form aesthetic judgment cannot be measured, but they must be nurtured. They cannot be touched, but they can be felt.

If we forget how to feel, the true meaning in our lives is diminished. The aesthetic experience is as real and vivid as taking a breath and to some, as necessary. Please remember that arts educators were the first to develop national standards. But where has it gotten them?

Even if all students do not choose to take extra arts classes for elective classes, *the fact that they have been required to take a few of them will enrich their lives*. My fear, is that the students who would like to take more than the required arts classes as electives may be having those opportunities severely limited as well. That would certainly be a shame on us.

Opportunities for artistic (aesthetic) growth throughout society enrich all parts of society, even if not all people choose to participate directly in them. All students are enriched either directly or indirectly when a full and unfettered fine arts curriculum is available to all students, even if they don't take those classes themselves.

However, in the world of test, test, test, true creativity and aesthetic understanding is not a valued commodity sometimes because it doesn't generate data.

Richard M, Heath, Retired, 35-year, Music Educator

Kaysville, Utah

Healthy Schools

Healthy Schools	
School Nutrition	+
Obesity Prevention Facts	-
Youth Obesity Maps (2003-2015)	
Body Mass Index (BMI) Measurement in Schools	
Physical Education and Physical Activity	+
School Health Services	+
Chronic Conditions	+
Local School Wellness Policy	
Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC)	+
Virtual Healthy School	+
Tools & Resources	+
Health and Academics	
Parents for Healthy Schools	
School Health Guidelines	
Data & Statistics	
Multimedia	+
Professional Development & Training	+
E-Learning Series: Training Tools for Healthy Schools	+
Training Cadre	+
School Health Index	+

CDC > [Healthy Schools](#)

Childhood Obesity Facts



Obesity Facts

Overview

The percentage of children with obesity in the United States has more than tripled since the 1970s.¹ Today, about one in five school-aged children (ages 6–19) has obesity.²

Obesity is defined as having excess body fat.³ Overweight is defined as having excess body weight for a particular height from fat, muscle, bone, water, or a combination of these factors.³ Body mass index, or BMI, is a widely used screening tool for measuring both overweight and obesity. BMI percentile is preferred for measuring children and young adults (ages 2–20) because it takes into account that they are still growing, and growing at different rates depending on their age and sex. Health professionals use growth charts to see whether a child's weight falls into a healthy range for the child's height, age, and sex.

- Children with a BMI at or above the 85th percentile and less than the 95th percentile are considered overweight.
- Children at or above the 95th percentile have obesity.

For more information about how BMI is measured in children: [About Child & Teen BMI](#)

For more information about BMI measurement in school settings: [Body Mass Index \(BMI\) Measurement in Schools](#)

Energy Balance and Causes of Obesity

Many factors contribute to childhood obesity, including⁴⁻⁶

- Genetics
- Metabolism—how your body changes food and oxygen into energy it can use
- Eating and physical activity behaviors
- Environmental factors
- Social and individual psychology

Over time, consuming more energy from foods and beverages than the body uses for healthy functioning, growth, and physical activity, leads to extra weight gain.^{7, 8} Energy imbalance is a key factor⁹ behind the high rates of obesity seen in the United States and globally.^{7, 10–11}

The dietary and physical activity behaviors of children and adolescents are influenced by many sectors of society, including families, communities, schools, child care settings, medical care providers, faith-based institutions, government agencies, the media, and the food and beverage industries and entertainment industries.^{4, 12, 13}

Changes in the environments where children spend their time—like homes, schools, and community settings—can help children

UMTA Statement to Board of Education in Regard to R277-700:

It is my pleasure to address the Board of Education on behalf of the Members of the Utah Music Teachers Association regarding administrative rule R277 -700 The Elementary and Secondary School General Core, and the recent amendments approved on August 4th by the Board of Education.

“It is impossible to overstate the importance of continuing art education in the public schools. Education in the arts increases the potential for students to understand themselves and change how they see the world, thereby bolstering community pride and celebrating cultural differences. The arts serve to bridge cultural, ethnic, and racial boundaries. The arts heal. The arts unite students and communities. The arts save lives. The arts do not exist in a vacuum. They influence students’ academic performance, self-esteem, relations and interpersonal skills, and even enhance brain function.” Heather Smith, NCTM

7th and 8th graders are developmentally at an age where artistic pursuits, physical activity and health education can be of most benefit. As young adolescents become independent they need programs which encourage them to make healthy choices and develop habits that lead to emotional and physical well-being. Many of the identified problems within our society (substance and drug abuse, mental health issues, teenage suicide, eating disorders, obesity, etc.) are directly or indirectly addressed by classes in health, physical education and the arts. It seems shortsighted to cut programs designed to improve quality of life because of budget constraints, when the cost of cutting these programs may be much higher over a lifetime.

Schools are the ideal place for students to be exposed to all facets of learning, including music, which form the fabric of human culture alongside science, math, and literature. Those fields do not exist in isolation from each other, but enhance each other. The middle school years are a valuable time for students to experience the arts, in particular, as a safe place to explore appropriate ways to express emotions, to learn to think creatively and to belong and work with others in a unified group – all skills needed within a community.

7th and 8th graders also need to be prepared for opportunities available to them in high school. A student who has not participated in a performing group or who is not musically literate will simply not be ready to participate at a higher and more musically satisfying level when the opportunity becomes available. Successful high school choral and instrumental programs are built on the foundation provided by middle school programs. To cut any of the arts in 7th and 8th grade will impact the level of proficiency within those programs for high school students.

As teachers of piano students, we are directly impacted when accompanying and performing opportunities are not available to our students once they have reached the age and skill level to participate in middle school programs. A successful performance with a choir or instrumental group within the junior high school setting is a positive reinforcement to our students in continuing their piano and music studies. In addition to statewide music competitions, the Utah Music Teachers Association holds annual piano competitions and arranges for judges from all over the nation to evaluate Utah’s young musicians. Repeatedly, they lavish us with praise for the high quality of performers we have here in Utah. We cannot help but feel that the music in our schools contributes to this outstanding musical talent that we have in Utah!

While sympathizing with the challenges of funding education in rural or low-income areas of the state, it is hoped that rather than dismissing these programs as optional the State School board would advocate for all students to have access to a complete education. Young people are the leaders of tomorrow, so we must invest in them. If the goal of the Board of Education is to produce and support healthy and successful students, then the arts cannot be cut. It is hoped that the State Board of Education would support local school districts in finding creative ways to fund and provide these valuable programs for 7th and 8th graders. It is shortsighted to not prepare future generations with the skills to meet societal challenges and lead healthy productive lives.

I stand here today as a representative of over 600 music educators from around the state, alongside fellow music and cultural organizations, art supporters, and concerned parents in expressing that while the changes made on August 4th were intended to allow more freedom of choice for local districts and charter schools, a very serious unintended consequence may result in a substantial loss of choice and opportunity due to a lack of funding for the arts. If there is no requirement, there usually ends up being no funding.

The Utah Music Teachers Association requests that the Utah Board of Education reinstate arts education back into the core curriculum for 7th and 8th grade students affected by administrative rule R277-700 The Elementary and Secondary School General Core.

Former President of the United States, Gerald Ford, once said, "Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them – a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Maria Gamatva, NCTM
Arts Awareness & Advocacy Chair
9/20/17*

The Importance of Art in Child Development

By Grace Hwang Lynch



In recent years, school curricula in the United States have shifted heavily toward common core subjects of reading and math, but what about the arts? Although some may regard art education as a luxury, simple creative activities are some of the building blocks of child development. Learning to create and appreciate visual aesthetics may be more important than ever to the development of the next generation of children as they grow up.

Developmental Benefits of Art

Motor Skills: Many of the motions involved in making art, such as holding a paintbrush or scribbling with a crayon, are essential to the growth of fine motor skills in young children. According to the National Institutes of Health, developmental milestones around age three should include drawing a circle and beginning to use safety scissors. Around age four, children may be able to draw a square and begin cutting straight lines with scissors. Many preschool programs emphasize the use of scissors because it develops the dexterity children will need for writing.

Language Development: For very young children, making art—or just talking about it—provides opportunities to learn words for colors, shapes and actions. When toddlers are as young as a year old, parents can do simple activities such as crumpling up paper and calling it a “ball.” By elementary school, students can use descriptive words to discuss their own creations or to talk about what feelings are elicited when they see different styles of artwork.

Decision Making: According to a report by Americans for the Arts, art education strengthens problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. The experience of making decisions and choices in the course of creating art carries over into other parts of life. “If they are exploring and thinking and experimenting and trying new ideas, then creativity has a chance to blossom,” says MaryAnn Kohl, an arts educator and author of numerous books about children’s art education.

Visual Learning: Drawing, sculpting with clay and threading beads on a string all develop visual-spatial skills, which are more important than ever. Even toddlers know how to operate a smart phone or tablet, which means that even before they can read, kids are taking in visual information. This information consists of cues that we get from pictures or three-dimensional objects from digital media, books and television.

“Parents need to be aware that children learn a lot more from graphic sources now than in the past,” says Dr. Kerry Freedman, Head of Art and Design Education at Northern Illinois University. “Children need to know more about the world than just what they can learn through text and numbers. Art education teaches students how to interpret, criticize, and use visual information, and how to make choices based on it.” Knowledge about the visual arts, such as graphic symbolism, is especially important in helping kids become smart consumers and navigate a world filled with marketing logos.

Inventiveness: When kids are encouraged to express themselves and take risks in creating art, they develop a sense of innovation that will be important in their adult lives. “The kind of people society needs to make it move forward are thinking, inventive people who seek new ways and improvements, not people who can only follow directions,” says Kohl. “Art is a way to encourage the process and the experience of thinking and making things better!”

Cultural Awareness: As we live in an increasingly diverse society, the images of different groups in the media may also present mixed messages. “If a child is playing with a toy that suggests a racist or sexist meaning, part of that meaning develops because of the aesthetics of the toy—the color, shape, texture of the hair,” says Freedman. Teaching children to recognize the choices an artist or designer makes in portraying a subject helps kids understand the concept that what they see may be someone’s interpretation of reality.

Improved Academic Performance: Studies show that there is a correlation between art and other achievement. A report by Americans for the Arts states that young people who participate regularly in the arts (three hours a day on three days each week through one full year) are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to participate in a math and science fair or to win an award for writing an essay or poem than children who do not participate.

Grace Hwang Lynch is a writer, consultant, and mom based in the San Francisco Bay area. She blogs about Asian fusion family and food at HapaMama.com.

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20 Important Benefits of Music In Our Schools

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20 Important Benefits of Music In Our Schools



(<https://i0.wp.com/nafme.org/wp-content/files/2014/07/ThinkstockPhotos-135708229.jpg?ssl=1>)

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This article originally appeared on the Bachelors Degree (<http://www.bachelorsdegree.org/2011/03/10/20-important-benefits-of-music-in-our-schools/>) website.

Nearly everyone enjoys music, whether by listening to it, singing, or playing an instrument. But despite this almost universal interest, many schools are having to do away with their music education programs. This is a mistake, with schools losing not only an enjoyable subject, but a subject that can enrich students' lives and education. Read on to learn why music education is so important, and how it offers benefits even beyond itself.

1. **Musical training helps develop language and reasoning:** Students who have early musical training will develop the areas of the brain related to language and reasoning. The left side of the brain is better developed with music, and songs can help imprint information on young minds.
2. **A mastery of memorization:** Even when performing with sheet music, student musicians are constantly using their memory to perform. The skill of memorization can serve students well in education and beyond.
3. **Students learn to improve their work:** Learning music promotes craftsmanship, and students learn to want to create good work instead of mediocre work. This desire can be applied to all subjects of study.
4. **Increased coordination:** Students who practice with musical instruments can improve their hand-eye coordination. Just like playing sports, children can develop motor skills when playing music.
5. **A sense of achievement:** Learning to play pieces of music on a new instrument can be a challenging, but achievable goal. Students who master even the smallest goal in music will be able to feel proud of their achievement.
6. **Kids stay engaged in school:** An enjoyable subject like music can keep kids interested and engaged in school. Student musicians are likely to stay in school to achieve in other subjects.
7. **Success in society:** Music is the fabric of our society, and music can shape abilities and character. Students in band or orchestra are less likely to abuse substances over their lifetime. Musical education can greatly contribute to children's intellectual development as well.
8. **Emotional development:** Students of music can be more emotionally developed, with empathy towards other cultures. They also tend to have higher self-esteem and are better at coping with anxiety.
9. **Students learn pattern recognition:** Children can develop their math and pattern-recognition skills with the help of musical education. Playing music offers repetition in a fun format.
10. **Better SAT scores:** Students who have experience with music performance or appreciation score higher on the SAT. One report indicates 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math for students in music appreciation courses.
11. **Fine-tuned auditory skills:** Musicians can better detect meaningful, information-bearing elements in sounds, like the emotional meaning in a baby's cry. Students who practice music can have better auditory attention, and pick out predictable patterns from surrounding noise.
12. **Music builds imagination and intellectual curiosity:** Introducing music in the early childhood years can help foster a positive attitude toward learning and curiosity. Artistic education develops the whole brain and develops a child's imagination.
13. **Music can be relaxing:** Students can fight stress by learning to play music. Soothing music is especially helpful in helping kids relax.
14. **Musical instruments can teach discipline:** Kids who learn to play an instrument can learn a valuable lesson in discipline. They will have to set time aside to practice and rise to the challenge of learning with discipline to master playing their instrument.

15. **Preparation for the creative economy:** Investing in creative education can prepare students for the 21st century workforce. The new economy has created more artistic careers, and these jobs may grow faster than others in the future.
16. **Development in creative thinking:** Kids who study the arts can learn to think creatively. This kind of education can help them solve problems by thinking outside the box and realizing that there may be more than one right answer.
17. **Music can develop spatial intelligence:** Students who study music can improve the development of spatial intelligence, which allows them to perceive the world accurately and form mental pictures. Spatial intelligence is helpful for advanced mathematics and more.
18. **Kids can learn teamwork:** Many musical education programs require teamwork as part of a band or orchestra. In these groups, students will learn how to work together and build camaraderie.
19. **Responsible risk-taking:** Performing a musical piece can bring fear and anxiety. Doing so teaches kids how to take risks and deal with fear, which will help them become successful and reach their potential.
20. **Better self-confidence:** With encouragement from teachers and parents, students playing a musical instrument can build pride and confidence. Musical education is also likely to develop better communication for students.

Link to Original Article by Bachelors Degree (<http://www.bachelorsdegree.org/2011/03/10/20-important-benefits-of-music-in-our-schools/>)

Teachers, Music Parents, Students, and Advocates: looking for more information on music's benefits? Check out these other resources:

- Learn about music's new standing in federal education law on the Everything ESSA resource page (<http://bit.ly/EverythingESSA>)
- NEW: Music advocacy flyer (http://nafme.org/wp-content/files/2015/08/Concert-Program-flyer-for-parents-on-ESSA_2-2.pdf)
- Support music in underserved communities (<http://bit.ly/GANDonate>)
- Learn what NAFME is doing to support music education, and how you can help. (<https://nafme.org/advocacy/>)
- Music Advocates: Join NAFME today (<https://nafme.org/membership/associate/>) to make a difference for music. Learn more (<http://jointoday.nafme.org/takeaction/>).
- 5 Ways to Support Your Music Program (<https://nafme.org/take-action/5-ways-to-support-your-music-program/>)
- NAFME's Music in a Minuet Blog (<https://nafme.org/category/news/music-in-a-minuet/>) – search by category on this page (<https://nafme.org/community/news/>)

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57 Comments National Association for Music Education

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allee • 3 years ago

My family loves music im 11 music is my life this really helps for my social studies project

4 ^ v • Reply • Share ›

cashewater → allee • a year ago

this really helps with my college course haha. Different purpose huh?

^ v • Reply • Share ›

Brenda Auten • 3 years ago

I can attest to this, my two children were heavily involved in music from fourth grade through college it is a very large part of their life...

2 ^ v • Reply • Share ›

Nay • 3 years ago

music is very educational for kids :)

2 ^ v • Reply • Share ›

Doctorate Degree Programs UK → Nay • 2 years ago

so true...and I have to say it is essential for Kids

1 ^ v • Reply • Share ›

Vanka → Nay • 2 years ago



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Monday, September 18, 2017

TO: MEMBERS OF THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: UTAH CULTURAL ALLIANCE, UTAH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, UTAH MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, AND THE FOLLOWING SIGNERS

(Inclosed with this petition are letters from CEOs and Executive Directors of a number of cultural institutions from around the state)

We are parents, voters, and Utahns who care about the success of our state's children. We know that a well-rounded education is vital to their future.

As your constituents, we ask you to reverse your August 4th decision to remove the Middle School credit requirement for health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy.

The benefits to children of a well-rounded education that includes arts, health, and PE education are many:

1. Better academic results, better workforce opportunities, and more civic engagement, especially for at-risk children.¹
2. Improved performance and grades in reading, math, writing, and other subjects.²
3. Increased creative thinking and problem solving.³
4. Increased positive attitudes towards school and learning.⁴
5. Less aggression and violent tendencies.⁵
6. Improved cognitive ability.⁶
7. Improved community cohesion.⁷
8. Improved graduation rates.⁸
9. Improved motor skills and self-discipline.⁹
10. Improved social interaction.¹⁰
11. Improved mental health and dietary choices.¹¹

Eliminating the credit requirement for arts, health, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy suggests that state standards and oversight for these vital programs could disappear. These



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are subject areas that are proven to close the school achievement gap. Lack of standards and oversight prevents fair and equitable services statewide, and puts at risk our State's commitment to ensure that a healthy and productive generation is ready to lead our future.

We thank the six board members who voted against this change: Janet Cannon, Brittney Cummins, Jennifer Graviet, Carol Barlow-Lear, Kathleen Riebe, and Spencer Stokes.

Utah is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families. We believe that our state public education system should be a light to the rest of America and the world. When policy changes occur that negatively affect children's education -- such as this credit change -- our state educational system suffers, and our children suffer. We ask you to reverse your August 4th decision.

Sincerely,

The board and staff of the Utah Cultural Alliance, the undersigned, and these organizations: Utah Education Association, Utah Music Teachers Association, Utah Federation of Music Clubs, and Morgan County Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

Crystal Young-Otterstrom
Executive Director // Utah Cultural Alliance

(petition signers are at the end of this document after organizational letters)

¹ Sources note, some of the articles below are links. All links can be found at: http://www.utahculturalalliance.org/school_board_petition

<https://www.arts.gov/file/2684>



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Joshua Staurus
Utah Shakespeare Festival (Cedar City)

² A 2002 report by the Arts Education Partnership revealed that schoolchildren exposed to drama, music and dance are often more proficient at reading, writing, and math. & The 2006 Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum study on art education showed a link between arts education and improved literacy skills. & A 2011 study called "Reinvesting in Arts Education" found that integrating arts with other subjects can help raise achievement levels. & Active Education: Physical Education, Physical Activity and Academic Performance. & An Evaluation of the Relationship between Academic Performance and Physical Fitness Measures in California Schools

³ A study (<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/champions/pdfs/Learning.pdf>) of more than 2,000 middle-school students by researchers at Columbia University found that students who had participated in at least three years of in-school arts instruction scored significantly higher on an instrument measuring creative thinking and that these students self-reported much higher rates of positive attitudes towards school and learning than did their peers who had experienced less arts education.

⁴ Same study as 1.

⁵ Evaluation of a six-month program that involved youth in drama reported that these participants demonstrated less aggressive and violent tendencies, while also exhibiting more pro-social behaviors like cooperation and self control compared to before participating. http://www.traumacenter.org/products/pdf_files/jsv5_2_2006.pdf & A study of Missouri public schools in 2010 found that greater arts education led to fewer disciplinary infractions and higher attendance, graduation rates and test scores.

⁶ A study by research kinesiologists found that students showed improved cognitive ability after participating in moderate exercise. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306452209001171> & A meta-analysis that took into account 44 studies that had sought to identify correlations & between physical activity among children and their cognitive performance concluded that there is a significant relationship & The Association Between School-Based Physical Activity, Including Physical Education, and Academic Performance

⁷ A 2005 report by the Rand Corporation called "A Portrait of the Visual Arts" argues that art education does more than just give students a creative outlet. It can actually help connect them to the larger world, ultimately improving community cohesion.

⁸ The Center for Arts Education published a report in 2009 that suggests arts education may improve graduation rates.

⁹ <http://www.phitamerica.org/Page1139.aspx> & Physical Education in Kindergarten Promotes Fundamental Motor Skill Development

¹⁰ <http://www.livestrong.com/article/529108-what-are-the-benefits-of-physical-education-in-school/>

¹¹ Do the Duration and Frequency of Physical Education Predict Academic Achievement, Self-concept, Social skills, Food consumption, and Body Mass Index?

Paul Meecham
President & CEO

September 18, 2017

Thierry Fischer
Symphony Music Director

Utah State Board of Education
250 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Christopher McBeth
Opera Artistic Director

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Kim R. Wilson

Thomas Wright

Mark Davidson

Lissa Stoltz

Utah Symphony Musicians

Margaret Sargent

Utah Symphony Guild

Dr. Robert Fudge

Ogden Symphony

Ballet Association

Dear Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Musicians, Staff and Trustees of Utah Symphony | Utah Opera, we urge you to reverse the Board's August 4th decision to remove the Middle School credit requirement for health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy.

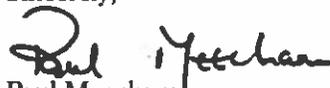
Eliminating the credit requirement for these areas suggests that state standards and oversight for these vital programs could disappear. These are subject areas that are proven to close the school achievement gap and encourage student attendance.

As the largest arts organization in Utah, and one that focuses on music, we will speak to these points. Through music, children develop observation, concentration, creative thinking and communication skills that translate into a lifetime of productive endeavors in all professional and avocational pursuits. The achievements of instrumental and vocal performers demonstrate for children the rewards of long-term dedication to a personal and professional goal. Even if they do not choose to play an instrument or learn singing techniques, early exposure to music cultivates the appreciative audiences of the future. Through these personal benefits to each child, music education enhances the overall quality of life in Utah, and its desirability as a place to live and visit.

With the current very strong focus on competency in core subjects such as language arts, math, and science, resources for arts instruction vary greatly from school to school. However, studies have shown that experiences in the arts strengthen children's academic motivation, self-confidence, and cooperation. The arts invite new ways of understanding and problem-solving, allowing the freedom to explore and experiment in an arena in which there are not necessarily right and wrong answers. By maintaining arts as a requirement, you ensure access to, and awareness of, these invaluable life skills for every child.

Utah is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families. We believe that our state public education system should be a light to the rest of the United States of America and the world. When policy changes occur that negatively affect children's education – such as this credit change – our state educational system suffers, and our children suffer. We ask you respectfully to reverse your August 4th decision.

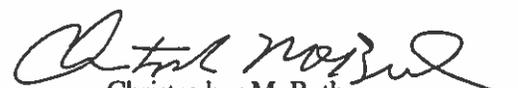
Sincerely,



Paul Meecham
President & CEO
Utah Symphony | Utah Opera



Thierry Fischer
Music Director
Utah Symphony



Christopher McBeth
Artistic Director
Utah Opera

Ticket Office
801.533.6683
Fax 801.869.9048
usuo.org

Abravanel Hall
123 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
801.533.5626
Fax 801.869.9026

Production Studios
336 North 400 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103
801.736.4605
Fax 801.869.9051

September 18, 2017

The Utah State Board of Education
250 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111



AT THE
UNIVERSITY
OF UTAH

Dear Utah State Board Members:

As an arts leader in the State of Utah and an arts professional with thirty years' experience in art museums and museum education, I write today to urge you to reverse your August 4 decision to eliminate the middle school credit requirement for health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy.

Quality arts education is vital to ensuring our children's success by improving critical thinking and problem solving, self-discipline and social interaction, and classroom performance across all subjects. Access to good arts programming—as well as information about the importance of physical education, good health, and college/career awareness—provides kids with a world of possibility, opening their minds and hearts to all that they might pursue in life. These subjects must remain as part of the required curriculum to assure that every student, regardless of economic status or background, has access to a well-rounded education, especially at such a crucial time in their development.

At the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, a central part of our mission is to inspire creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking in our growing and diverse community. We engage visitors in dynamic programs, exhibitions, and experiences and encourage active participation in conversations that celebrate multiple perspectives and voices. We believe that all people learn together by asking questions, experimenting, and collaborating through open exchange of voices and ideas.

We raise our voice with those of arts professionals and educators around the state—including the Utah Cultural Alliance, Utah Education Association, and the Utah Music Teachers Association—in asking that you accept the substantial evidenced-based research that proves the value and importance of this kind of learning and teaching. Arts, health, and PE support and improve academic results and success in math, reading, and writing and help students develop a heightened sense of empathy and compassion for other people.

As the mother of middle-school age children, as a dedicated and experienced arts professional, and as a citizen who values arts, health, and creativity in all areas of life, I'm alarmed by the vote to eliminate the middle school credit requirement for these essential areas of study. Please reconsider this potentially disastrous decision and ensure that all of Utah's students have access to great arts and health programming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gretchen Dietrich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Gretchen Dietrich
Executive Director



NOVA

NOVA Chamber
Music Series
PO Box 520962
SLC, UT 84152

info@novaslc.org
novaslc.org

Jason Hardink
Artistic Director

Kristin Rector
Executive Director

Board of Directors:

Frank Hanson, Pres.
Hillary Hahn
Craig Miller
Glenn Prestwich
Richard Sheinberg
Kathryn Waddell
Janell Weinstock

September 18, 2017

Dear Members of the Utah State Board of Education,

On behalf of the NOVA Chamber Music Series' music education initiative, *The NOVA Music Project* We are writing to you to reverse your August 4, 2017 decision to eliminate the credit requirements for arts, health, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy.

There are many benefits to students with well-rounded education experiences such as; improved performance and grades in reading, math, and writing, more civic engagement, less aggression and violence tendencies, and increased attitudes towards education.

The NOVA Music Project has been delivered to thousands of students in our community. Here is some recent feedback we received from our program.

"I want to send you my deeply felt thanks for the opportunity to have Aspen Winds visit our classroom. It's a fantastically multi-dimensional experience to have live performers playing music close up. Our students can see, hear, and emotionally open up to it in ways far beyond a recording. We are grateful for your work, for your dedication to education, and for taking the time to visit us. I don't believe the students will forget this experience."

Kimberly Marsden – International School of Utah

"Thank you for your visit! The musicians were wonderful and they captured my students' attention and sparked their curiosity. Thank you for engaging with them and allowing them to ask questions. I'm still smiling about how you answered the 'If you could create your own instrument what would it look and sound like?' question. So wonderful!"

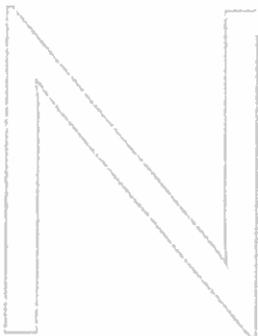
David Asman – Rose Park Elementary

Thank you for considering this information in the reversal of your decision of August 4, 2017.

Sincerely,

Kristin Rector
Executive Director

Jason Hardink
Artistic Director



September 18, 2017

Dear State School Board of Education,

In light of recent decisions to minimize the required credits for arts, health and PE in middle school, I would like to share an impassioned plea for reversal. The arts have absolute benefit for all of us, but most especially in each student's well-rounded education. The students' in middle school and jr. high are at their most vulnerable point and are in particular need of quality arts instruction to navigate this world. Each adolescent is searching for what they have to offer and bring to the world. Without being able to work through their personal identity in safe and productive ways, such as discovering their place within the world through quality arts (and humanities) in education, it is a very disadvantaged journey.

We at Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre have been working for the last 20 years with Opera by Children and other arts education programs providing in-school and after-school arts experiences. We see evidence every single day that arts in education works. Teachers too, see the difference the arts make, "This isn't just learning, teaching or guiding. It is really something every student should experience! Students in my class were more willing to try new things and take learning risks in their personal life. Some tried out for student council the following year, some tried for 7th grade officers, a few joined choir, and others took art classes. Students were able to put themselves out there and succeed and were more likely to keep trying and 'revise' their previous effort. As a class this solidified friendships, made new friendships, and as a whole class there were less behavior problems, because of this bonding experience they all shared."

The arts and humanities are part of a well-rounded education, and cannot be separated from life and the need for creativity. Our humanity shows in self-discovery and in outward communication of ideas when any art medium is used to comprehend boundless topics like war, love, spirituality, philosophy or civic duty. Without a safe way to seek for understanding of self and others, there are fewer tools to encourage compassion, compromise, or tolerance.

The arts are the most inclusive way of ensuring an education is meeting the needs of the individual. Without clear state leadership in the area of providing equitable access to arts education for each student regardless of socioeconomic status, school districts may not regard the arts as necessary, or schools may completely end the opportunity for arts learning. The risk is for students to drop out of school and not progress toward high school graduation or studies in vocational school or college. Statistics show middle school is where they are lost.

Please endorse legislation and create policies that increase these opportunities and provide revenue for school districts and utilize funding, such as Title I, in order to champion the arts strategies that provide the opportunities our students need to flourish. Support and inspire educators to teach innovatively. This is what will support our students and carry them into a future with endless opportunities in a world we have not yet lived in as it has yet to be imagined.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Gee
Opera by Children Director
Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre

Elisabeth Nebeker

Utah Film Center letter

To: Crystal Young-Otterstrom

Inbox - CYO @ UCA 12:40 PM



Updated contact info found in this email: Elisabeth Nebeker enebeker@utahfilmcenter.org

update...

Dear School Board -

On behalf of the Utah Film Center we ask that you reverse your August 4th decision to remove the Middle School credit requirement for health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages and digital literacy.

We work with students and educators to use digital media arts and film in the classroom to think critically, develop storytelling skills, and create an engaging learning environment.

A well rounded education should be a priority for our State that values the importance of the arts for a lifetime. We need to commit to the benefits that have been documented by numerous studies.

As a mother of high schoolers I know the importance of giving our children opportunities to explore, build confidence and empathy through arts, health, PE, language especially in the middle school years when the challenges they are facing personally and socially can be difficult. Please vote to reverse this decision.

Kindly,
Elisabeth Nebeker
Executive Director

-

Elisabeth Nebeker
Executive Director

Utah Film Center
50 West Broadway, Suite 1125 | Salt Lake City, UT 84101
utahfilmcenter.org
enebeker@utahfilmcenter.org

o: (801) 746-7000
c: (801) 694-9110

Connect with us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



Culture In Motion.



September 18, 2017

Utah State Board of Education

Dear Member of the Utah State Board of Education:

We, at the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, believe that the arts are a vital part of K-12 education. Arts as an elective rather than a mandatory requirement of middle school students will undermined the very heart of developing well-rounded individuals.

The arts can be an equal playing ground for many students. They bring students together to not only develop creative thinking, team building, social skills, cognitive ability, but of course physical ability. Our education programs include bilingual and anti-bullying performance demonstrations as well as celebrating the similarities and the differences that each child brings to the community. We have found the arts and specifically dance, has been able to engage many students that no other STEM subject has been able to achieve.

All students should have access to the arts and the arts should be required at all grade levels.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jena C. Woodbury
Executive Director
jena@ririewoodbury.com

Ai Fujii Nelson
Education Director
education@ririewoodbury.com

PETITION SIGNERS

1. Crystal Young-Otterstrom
2. Jason Myers
3. Michele Swaner
4. Chantel Myers
5. Aimee Myers
6. Brian Nicholls Brian Nicholls
7. Emily Wilson
8. Rosanne Henderson
9. Kimberly Sorensen
10. Hana The Mundi Project
11. Rachel Olsen
12. Colo Robinson Students need the arts to help develop creativity, a tool for the future in their lives, to find better ways to make the world better
13. Joshua Sohn JOSHUA SOHN
14. Michelle Cloud
15. Angie Keeton
16. Melissa Bearden Our children deserve a complete education - with artistic options for expression and understanding
17. Karen Ho
18. Ruth Ann Nielsen
19. Karale Clark
20. Gwen Brewton
21. Jennifer Peterson
22. Connie Nay
23. Rebecca Udy
24. JoAnne Hinkle Arts are important! The cultural connection fosters the application and thereby better understanding of knowledge. There needs to be a reason for students to learn, which is provided by arts. It is short-sighted in the extreme to cut them out.
25. Theresa Hinkle
26. Erica Wangsgard Today's education world is adding MORE arts not less. Full STEAM ahead! Please reverse your decision to move Utah backwards. I'm pretty sure our biggest arts advocate in Utah history, Brigham Young, would be appalled to learn you eliminated the arts for children.
27. Marlee Coles-Ritchie
28. Janina Lauer
29. John Tuilipou
30. Danna Chin
31. Charlotte Bell
32. Jill Hansen Snow College has just begun to see improvement in students' math and science knowledge bases. Please do not set progress back 20 years!
33. Cassie Burton
34. Lindsey Wright
35. Amelia Overbye
36. Oreta Tupala You've taken away more than enough from our children. Don't take away this!
37. Carol Beck
38. Caroline Jennings
39. Doug Mayor
40. Kristin Amundsen
41. Amren Patterson Amren Patterson
42. Sheila Johnston Sheila Johnston
43. Roman Lopez Art was important in my development. PE helped with competitiveness, drive and a healthy lifestyle. Art should remain a core component since it can make children think in new ways to solve solutions
44. Elisabeth Luntz We need more flexibility with PE, we need more investment in health and arts.
45. Aubrey Lewis
46. Heather Johnson Gutierrez
47. Tiffin Brough
48. Ashley Anderson
49. Debra Day Olivier Very important statewide, in rural counties and urban ones.
50. Kathryn Prater The State Board of Education should not be making things easier for charter schools. They are receiving public funds and should be held to the same standards as all the other public schools. These classes are necessary for a well-rounded student and should be required for all students. Charter schools need to change the way they are running or else if they cannot meet the standards and requirements that public schools follow.
51. Roma Myers
52. Paul Boruff Without the arts we are limiting the tools to reach our potential.
53. Elizabeth Payne
54. Anita Massey-Kaelin Anita Massey-Kaelin
55. Toni Pollock
56. Kate Lieberman
57. Suzanne Johnson The arts and physical education are what our society needs more of!
58. Lauren Cameron
59. Sarah Franco
60. Christine Fedar What are most major companies asking for in the workforce? Employees who are creative and have problem solving skills. Where are these skills learned? In arts and humanities classes. How about requiring more than taking them away? It makes no sense to take away these credit requirements!
61. Karen Corder
62. Marie Ann Harris
63. Carolyn Ewell Carolyn Ewell
64. Diane Kelly
65. Jennifer Parsons The Arts are TOO important to take away from our kids in school, especially those that can't afford supplemental arts education. Arts programming teaches problem-solving, follow-through and critical-thinking skills that are vital for their future success in education endeavors and careers.
66. Raymond Kahaonei Please keep this education alive
67. Amanda Perez Can I just ask what's left? These cuts are insane and will not enhance our standings in the United States nor increase our chances of our kids understanding healthy well-rounded, diverse living and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. This decision needs to be reversed immediately. There are other ways to make cuts and it is your job to find them. That's why you have been voted into your position. Very disappointing!
68. Cynthia Wright Cynthia Wright
69. Jeneanne Lack
70. Karlyen Tan
71. Michelle Ormond
72. Lois Matthews Countless studies have linked increased IQ, coordination, focus and motivation to Music Study. Why would we want to deny students the opportunity to not only learn more efficiently but to enjoy the journey that comes through the arts? Studying the arts has also been shown to boost social skills.
73. Michele Medina
74. Danielle Jacketta
75. Andrea Bailey
76. Jarmila Janatova
77. Jillian Guilman
78. Tara Oveson
79. Suzanne Cole
80. Marilyn Syria
81. Joshua Wright
82. Amelia Kenworthy If it weren't for the arts requirement my daughter wouldn't have the chance to be learning an instrument. We can't afford private lessons, she gets to have that amazing experience through school. Why would you want to take that away?
83. Janice Pyper
84. Mary Ann Battle
85. Jayme Fellows
86. Gina Morgan Through music my son found connection, leadership, and passion. He ranked top in his class through most of school, achieving honor roll and other awards. Music was a catalyst for his success.
87. Cheryl Rytting
88. Kersten Hanaker
89. Carole Straughn
90. Rebecca Browning
91. Linette Sheffield
92. Debbie Gibson
93. Lindsay Bastian
94. Sandefur Schmidt Sandefur Schmidt
95. Sara Chatelan
96. Amanda Finlayson
97. Tracie Pitke
98. Lezlee Bishop
99. Charlie Erickson
100. Jolene Halford
101. Sarajane Fife
102. Igor Iachimciuc
103. Karen Allbar Karen Allbar
104. Camille Packrus
105. Jonathan Miles
106. Alyssa Ridge
107. Christine Anderson
108. Sandra Preysz
109. Jackie Biskupski
110. Brittany Reese Brittany R Dew
111. Paula Manwaring
112. Carrie Evans
113. Heather Smith
114. Margaret Bowman
115. Kathy Davis
116. Adele Swenson
117. Jessica Weiss
118. Alysa Reveil Providing students with opportunities to express themselves and get their bodies moving is CRITICAL to the development of mentally/emotionally/physically healthy citizens!
119. Emma Dugal The formerly required subjects are crucial to a well rounded education. Participation in these subjects enhance learning in the core subjects and provide students with broader and more effective avenues toward self actualization, confidence and well being. Emma Dugal
120. Anna Topham
121. Meagan Knight
122. Nefertite Nunley
123. Eldon DeHaan
124. Anne Ashworth
125. Barbara Yost
126. Lisa Kirchenbeter
127. Heidi El-Halta Some children's only exposure to these subjects are through school. Eliminating them will only increase the disparity between those whose circumstances provide the means for private music and other instruction and athletic opportunities and those that do not. Utah is better than this!
128. Liel Hanson
129. Paulo Crackett
130. Randalee Rose
131. Jerry Kaplan
132. James Landeen I am an engineering student. In middle school I took band. It is amazing how many college students don't know what middle school is when we discuss frequencies. Don't take music/arts away from schools. They are so beneficial to the world later on.
133. Sylvia Gray
134. Stefane Slade
135. Korie Bouldin
136. Michelle Miscio
137. Jill Duncan
138. Kathryn Hurn
139. Leland Benson Leland Benson
140. Dawn Oughtan
141. Katherine Dayton-Kistler I'm a retired LCSW, worked with middle schoolers and teens during my 36 year career. They need all our help to develop their critical thinking skills and understand today's world. Exercise builds brains. Music and art build brains. Math and science scores grow in relation to music and arts and exercise. Research proves this. Pardon the pun, but restoring these programs to middle schools is a "no brainer."
142. Julie Allen
143. Rachel Cook
144. Kathy Gale
145. Misty Morris
146. Kimberly Dalbu
147. Michael Rhoades
148. Lisa Dengg The arts are critical to the school system. Our children need the access to the music & art classes because they foster discipline & creativity in a that the other core classes do not.
149. Sanna Ehrigott
150. Lenora Brown
151. Marnie Dolan
152. Heather Maxine Smith
153. Sandra Davis Kaplan
154. Scott Rowley
155. Donnel Lamb
156. daniel white
157. Kevin Moore
158. Angela Roberts
159. Mary Conrad
160. Alexis Davis
161. Michael Crquelan
162. Carolyn Chambers
163. Katelyn Christensen
164. Elizabeth Wisner I assume that special interest groups pushing STEM education are trying to free up class periods to teach those subjects. While these classes are valuable to many students, there is a connection to the well being of very vulnerable and impressionable youth in Junior High schools that needs to be made. They are best able to learn about themselves, their strengths, and their humanity by participating in art, music, PE, and other exploratory classes. To take away the current requirements will be pulling out the rug from underneath them. They will end up more lost and more frustrated than before.
165. Georgia Hancock
166. Wendy Jensen
167. Lenni Stratton
168. Carol Spackman Mossi don't think the reason for the change has been clearly articulated. Additionally, what is the desired outcome?
169. Anne Haackle
170. Heather Sother
171. Marie Dippolito
172. Suzanne Thompson
173. Danielle Dallas As a lawyer and a musician I feel strongly that there is a critical place for the arts in every child's education. The arts encourage an exploration of another's ideas without judgment and ultimately an expression of self. Both parts are critical to developing a whole person. Likewise physical movement is vastly important to cognition (consider the research and

- arguments in the book Spark) If these opportunities are not included in schools then it will only be those in the higher socio-economic strata who can afford complete education. Don't we want this for all our children and youth? You're smart people please use your intelligence and influence as our government officials to figure out a way to make it happen.
- 174 Lynne Whittier
- 175 Laja Field
- 176 Ingrid Baron "It baffles me that this subject continues to pop up! First off, why do you even bulk DIGITAL LITERACY, PE and MUSIC/ART in the same category? They're completely separate from one another. Ok, look You've successfully put a computer screen/tablet in front of every student, they're sick of Lexia and ST Math, they are becoming a bunch of zombies with all the screen time they have at school. How about we take that away, or remove Computer Lab out of the curriculum? Are you really worried that kids aren't computer literate? As if. On the other hand, have you ever been to an Elementary or Middle School CHOIR Class? Their faces are about to explode with happiness! When was the last time you've been to an Art Show put on by the ENTIRE school? Again, pure giddiness abounds. Give up PE? Why not take away Lunchtime while you're at it and feed them intravenously while they read. How about bringing a bit more BALANCE to the curriculum? It's a wonderful time to be on a school board and reinvent how we do school in a new age! But please don't be so hasty and panicky. Put some serious thought into what needs tweaking and tweak it. But don't throw away the baby with the bath water.
- 177 Julie Mangum "I'm a high school art teacher. I have seen an countless occasions the need of creative release of the young teens in today's world. It has been proven, the positive impact the arts, health, PE ... have on students and their learning (in all classes). The move to remove these credits is baffling to me. If we care about the students of Utah, we really need to rethink this decision.
- 178 Heidi Essex
- 179 Loreta Whicker "Studies for years have shown that students perform better academically when they exposed to the physical, mental, emotional benefits of the arts and physical education. For some students these classes help them survive the more difficult academic curriculum. We have known that throughout my 40+ years of teaching Education is about creating a well-rounded person. As for the others courses, they are very necessary in preparing and helping young people begin making wise choices, developing necessary and useful skills, and again being more mentally developed to face a changing world.
- 180 Star Place
- 181 Kristal Rasmussen
- 182 Rick Baldasin
- 183 Susan Bowlden "As a retired elementary teacher, I say students need health, P.E., art, and music.
- 184 Jamie Hollingshead-Barrett "This ruling exhibits elitist and yet highly ignorant thinking. The countless flows in the ruling indicate that the State Board of Education is neither focused on or understands the basic tenants of education. Though the ruling applies to countless subjects, the loss of Art alone is a travesty - not to mention Health, Language, and Technology. These subjects are not a luxury - they are necessary. They teach in the most hands-on and practical sense - complex problem solving, abstract thinking, fine motor skills, and innumerable other critical life skills. This is BRAIN DEVELOPMENT at its peak. Few people beyond the age of 18 remember an iota of the specific learning in their K-12 years. This has little to do with forgetfulness or the lack of value in specific topics. It does however, have more to do with a general sense of knowledge and systemic learning. We come to understand processes as a whole and build informational resources incrementally. We start with Kindergarten and the basics of information and eventually develop by grade 12 the basics of how to learn. Whole brain development is what is at work here. If we fail to exercise and develop the whole brain - we have failed the majority of our children. Likewise, this ruling rather forcefully implies that children of wealthy or educated parents are the only ones deserving of greater brain development and informational exposure. Wealthy and educated parents will always provide ways for their children to access world languages, music, fine arts, technology, and college exploration. However, these opportunities are still lacking in WHOLE brain education and are subject to the caprices and/or fascinations of individuals. We committed as a society to educate ALL of our children and not just quantitatively but qualitatively as well. This constitutes an inexcusable failure.
- 185 Kim Andersen
- 186 Brooke Horejsi
- 187 Daphne Marchant
- 188 Jessica Jenkins
- 189 Deidren Booth
- 190 Angela Aigarin
- 191 Shannon Diataut
- 192 Linda Erwin
- 193 Mari Ashby "We need these subjects for our children.
- 194 Karen Walter "I feel like this is a huge mistake. We are slowly seeing our society becoming less and less focused on the arts, which is leading us to become a society of heathens. The health of our society is also becoming alarmingly poor. Too much focus is being put on what will make us richer and not on what makes us better human beings.
- 195 Jeremy Ackler
- 196 Becky Stone
- 197 Andrew Maguire
- 198 Kelly Winslow
- 199 Angela Roundy
- 200 Michelle Ludema
- 201 Jackie Reks
- 202 Pat Annoni
- 203 Jennifer Elizey
- 204 Sherry Banham
- 205 Ann Makin "It's the arts that bring enjoyment to all the rest of the curriculum in school and later in life! Some children have little or no exposure to all genres of music and art except in the schools. The removal of these programs will make it easier for this students in the short run, but a detriment to society in the future. Please reverse this short sighted decision.
- 206 Kelsey Garner
- 207 Jennifer Taylor
- 208 Krish Jones
- 209 Laurie Miller
- 210 Laura Scott
- 211 gustav hartel
- 212 Anne Cullmore Decker
- 213 Brooke Kowalczyk
- 214 Kirk Robinsons
- 215 Marianne Allen
- 216 Jackie Ward
- 217 Karee McDonough
- 218 Jeanette Woolsey
- 219 Madison Moore
- 220 Lynda Gutierrez
- 221 Pat Walts
- 222 Tami Youngman "With childhood obesity at an all time high, why wouldn't an establishment, such as the schools, try to do their part to prevent that? I want my kids to have PE. I want my kids to have access to art and music if this is allowed to happen, less and less PE and art classes will be offered, and replaced by more and more by classes that relate to math science and language arts. School districts will throw in mandatory reading, mandatory study hall for tested curriculum.
- 223 Jennifer Kalm
- 224 Anita Bennion
- 225 Jill Ingles
- 226 Kristin Jenkins
- 227 Channa Riley
- 228 Cheree Rowley
- 229 Ashley Andreason "I don't know why dropping these classes as requirements is even being considered. Another reason I refuse to have or raise kids in Utah. This state is going at least 10 years backward. Utah is behind many other states. Lagging and most of the blame lies in our lawmakers here making poor decision after poor decision. Students need these classes.
- 230 DeAnn Kettering
- 231 Whitney Mantandon
- 232 Nicole Young
- 233 Steve Williams
- 234 Jay Khader
- 235 Kathie Covington
- 236 Katelyn Anichini
- 237 Tonya Smith
- 238 Merla Little
- 239 Patti McConnell
- 240 Ruth Jentsch "This would be a huge disappointment if you choose to go forward with taking out these important learning opportunities. And job opportunities. I know that having art, health, PE, college learning made a difference in my life. It kept me healthier in my mind and physically. This is an important age to teach them about making healthy choices. These subjects are important. Please reconsider.
- 241 Hayley Clark
- 242 Sheri Rivera
- 243 Erica Endo
- 244 Laura Kettering
- 245 Natalie Taylor "Natalie Taylor
- 246 Chelsea Cook
- 247 Bngid Gles
- 248 Taylor Thomas
- 249 Lareta Reynolds
- 250 Shaunty McMillin "Shaunty McMillin
- 251 cameron corner
- 252 Marty McMillan "Eliminating the requirement for these classes is not a good idea. While it may be seen as an advantage of flexibility in the schedule, the adverse effects will be felt most strongly in our more vulnerable communities, where we need the arts and health education most.
- 253 Bonne Kelly
- 254 Jennifer Gardner
- 255 Corina Crutchfield
- 256 Monique Pratt
- 257 Becky Mercer
- 258 Lisa Cox
- 259 Taylor Layton
- 260 Laura Bandara
- 261 Lanay Page "Students need other classes besides Math, English, Science and Social Studies! Research has show that students who understand music do better in Math. Art allows students to understand social studies better. Art has been around forever and has been used to tell stories and provide evidence of a history of people who lived before. Science is found in the College and Career Awareness classrooms. These classes can aide to student learning and understanding. How science is used everywhere. So much focus in adulthood has to do with being healthy and living longer. Why are we taking classes away from students that teach them about their health in their youth. With all the technology that we have students are not moving. Students play with their phones instead of playing outdoors. Students need to learn about sports and how fun it is to play a sport. I know students cannot sit in class after class without being tired. Students need to have classes where they can move and discover other subjects besides core classes. Required classes open doors to understanding and learning that a student may not get either wise. Please allow students to learn other subjects besides their core classes."
- 262 Myrna Layton "The arts and humanities are ESSENTIAL - they are what make a civilization. And PE - without health, we have nothing.
- 263 Leslie Peterson
- 264 Conner Covington
- 265 David Dee
- 266 Erin Svoboda
- 267 Kathleen Sykes
- 268 Aaron Garrett
- 269 Andrew Wilson
- 270 Robert Trujillo "Robert Trujillo please keep these programs in our schools they are so import to our civil society.
- 271 Mercedes Smith
- 272 Shanna Bott
- 273 Faith Myers
- 274 Sydney Cheek-ODonnell
- 275 Phillip Kaim
- 276 Cynthia Rees
- 277 Casey Romero
- 278 Kirk Huffaker
- 279 Tiffani Allen
- 280 Julie McBeth "I strongly believe that the humanities are crucial to development of young people in our society.
- 281 kirstin ropser
- 282 Waylon Prince
- 283 Kristal Christiansen
- 284 Mandy Williams
- 285 Linda Smith "Linda Smith
- 286 Repertory Dance Theatre has served Jr and Middle school students for over 50 years. Using the art of dance, we have contributed to their growth, their self esteem and have helped them develop life long skills that encourage good citizenship, intellectual curiosity and a love for learning. Please continue to give these students the gift of the arts which will enhance their ability to understand and value the world and one another."
- 287 Jerry Rapier
- 288 Amy Young
- 289 Diane Parrisi
- 290 Mary Johnson "The arts are the

- foundation of education because all learning begins with the senses. not the cognitive part of the brain. Every person begins the life learning journey by things he/she senses and those senses continue to be the foundation of learning throughout life. That includes sports as a kinetic sense. Arts and PE MUST be retained for Middle School students!!!
- 291 Sydney Hussein These classes provide lifetime skills!
- 292 Victoria Bourns
- 293 Bruce Lee
- 294 Steven Labrum
- 295 Cynthia Roberts
- 296 Brady Allied It seems counterintuitive to eliminate such important opportunities for our children. Do our representatives on the Board of Education know about any of the research supporting arts education?
- 297 Tara Shupe
- 298 Betty Graupe
- 299 Jennifer Hewlett
- 300 Giles Larsen
- 301 Sarah Snelton
- 302 Anne Lee
- 303 Darc Lewis
- 304 Amy Shaffer I kind of can't believe that this is even being considered for elimination, let alone that it already was put in motion with no public feedback. To lose the emphasis and value placed on this kind of learning would be a tragedy.
- 305 Michelle Sulley
- 306 Ruth Ann Davenport
- 307 Edward Fedorov
- 308 Jennifer Belz Jennifer Belz
- 309 Turner Bitan
- 310 Meg Anderson
- 311 Brian Thompson
- 312 Paul Meecham
- 313 Jesse Sheeh
- 314 Genette Williams
- 315 Catherine Standford
- 316 Christian Ruske
- 317 Matthew Wallace Get rid of the middle school credit requirement for health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy? No!!! These are precisely the topic areas that are really important for young people to be exposed to so that they have an appreciation for the world around them. I concur that all of the benefits that are listed in this petition are vitally important. I strongly urge the Utah Board of Education to reconsider the August 4th decision and not do away with the middle school credit requirement for these topical
- 318 Karin Larson
- 319 Glenda Staples
- 320 Alison Olsen
- 321 Rachelle Thorpe
- 322 Pamela Gee The purpose of holding districts and schools to a unified expectation of offering Fine Arts, PE and health education for all students ensures equitable access and whole child learning. To disband the requirements at the state level diminishes perceived value. The arts connect us. The arts diminish barriers of language, culture and bring greater understanding *
- 324 Lynnette Owens
- 325 Tala Stivender
- 326 Ai Fujii Nelson
- 327 McKayla Herndon
- 328 Barlow Bradford Barlow D Bradford
- 329 Janelle Johnson
- 330 Harris Simmons
- 331 Blythe Enke
- 332 Melissa Stettler
- 333 Brooke Lambert Proponents of the plan to end requirement of art and PE classes are pushing a false narrative of wanting to give parents more freedom and choice in their education. The freedom is already there! A parent can opt a student out of PE or art class simply by signing a paper at the district office. So please don't use freedom of choice as an argument! This plan will hurt students who need these programs the most. It is short-sighted and shameful.
- 334 David Thomas The decision to remove art, music, and p.e. from the curriculum is ill-conceived. For a well rounded graduate, experience with this areas is a necessity. The relationship between the arts and better academic performance is well documented in respected peer reviewed studies. Do not take action that would label Utah as anti-intellectual and anti-physical fitness. Reverse this action.
- 335 Elizabeth Wolfer
- 336 Ranae Greene "Ranae T Greene
- 337 A well rounded education is not only vital for our students academically, but also socially and emotionally. We are involved in helping students grow into thinking, acting, healthy community members. The arts especially help students connect to who they are and to the broader sense of belonging to a larger community. Please take time to look at the research!"
- 338 Patricia Harris
- 339 Rebecca Evans
- 340 Jans Ferre
- 341 Robert Baldwin
- 342 Kathleen Cattle
- 343 Terry Mitchell Our kids deserve an education that includes arts and physical education. Our brains need the right and left side working together, logic and creativity work best together.
- 344 Carol Stringham
- 345 Caitlin Jakosztz
- 346 Nick Velis Nick Velis
- 347 Kay Jones
- 348 Jenny Ostraff
- 349 Jean Marshall Jean Marshall
- 350 Celine Dawnen
- 351 Jonna Ramey
- 352 Katherine Manousakis
- 353 Susan Cheney Susan S Cheney
- 354 Misti Moberly
- 355 Ceely Cook
- 356 Sunny Johnson
- 357 Lucinda Kindred
- 358 Kathie Webster
- 359 Nicole Marriott
- 360 Luke Pfeil
- 361 Andrew Scovarsanski
- 362 Georganne Arrington
- 363 Jacqueline Fisher
- 364 Ben Labrot
- 365 Leske Timmons
- 366 Mark Bailey
- 367 Jesuca Alpers
- 368 Margaret Garr
- 369 Amber Murray
- 370 Danis Trujillo
- 371 Jessica Liu
- 372 Christine Galey Christine Galey
- 373 Andrea Himoff Andrea Himoff
- 374 Jessica Wiley
- 375 Shalee Schmidt
- 376 Justine Sheedy-Kramer
- 377 Debbie Wang
- 378 Autumn Linsky
- 379 Jim Fallett
- 380 Cami Mower
- 381 Rebecca Cox I am an arts educator and have seen firsthand the impact that the arts can provide for a youth. Please keep the creative options available!
- 382 Neil Vertel
- 383 Kimberly Stewart
- 384 Tom Schaffer
- 385 Meghan Ramirez
- 386 Margaret Sargent Please don't make the arts optional! They are so valuable to our community and to society and need to be taught in the schools!!
- 387 Janet Blackmer As a lifelong musician, trained partially in school programs, I can definitely say that much of my success in all areas of life I owe to my many years of musical training. I am better at problem solving, concentration, planning and executing goals, and I have greater self esteem than if I had not had the arts in my life. Please do NOT take this gift away from our children.
- 388 April Ellis
- 389 Michele Visaraga
- 390 Sandra Allen Sandra B. Allen
- 391 Randi Henderson
- 392 Chris Busch
- 393 Dustin Nay
- 394 Louise Mathews These are essential for a quality education.
- 395 Alexandra Hurst
- 396 Stephane Arceneaux
- 397 Shelby Woolf
- 398 Richard Scharine
- 399 Kody Goldsmith
- 400 Lacie Liu
- 401 Ryan Tammer As a music teacher, I see the positive impact music can make everyday on my students. Every student deserves the chance to succeed in life, and music makes that happen.
- 402 Ilse DeKoeeyer-Laros
- 403 Rachel Mills Music was my life in school. I want others to experience the arts in the future.
- 404 Rachel Kelson
- 405 Erin Major As someone who teaches the arts, I see how they change students and provide a lifeline for them through their teens years. Removing the requirement of the middle school age will ruin that experience for many people.
- 406 Jenny Mauro
- 407 Carol Harrington I am a former Utah educator and I am very concerned by this move on the part of the Utah State Board of Education.
- 408 Nathan McDonald
- 409 Karin Steed
- 410 Katie Anderson
- 411 Janine Sheldon I had a superb art teacher in 8th grade at Clayton Jr High, Joseph Wisam. Everything I knew about art I learned from him. I worked as a fundraiser at the LA County Museum of Art and at the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum for a total of 20 years, earning a very decent living. I returned to Utah 7 years ago and continued to work in fundraising for the arts. It's ridiculous to think that the arts do not prepare students for lucrative careers and productive citizenship. I am sad that Utah would take such a backward step.
- 412 Rachel Harmon
- 413 Cheryl Ann Blackley
- 414 Cara Smith
- 415 Stephane Labrot
- 416 Becky Durham The arts help people find commonalities and they help
- develop critical thinking. A reverence for beautiful things brings people together. I'm not encouraged to appreciate music, theatre, literature, dance and visual arts, a huge component of one's humanity atrophies. These classes - art, health, PE - offer variety and a place for one's emotional and physical growth to flourish during very formative years. They are the building blocks of a healthier and mature society.
- 417 Nana Shino
- 418 Kira Tafaya
- 419 Melanie Rollins
- 420 Becky Roberts The idea of eliminating these topics & activities is insane. Parental and community input is essential to this very wrong decision.
- 421 Jessica Nield
- 422 Vedrana Subotic
- 423 Daniel Featherstone
- 424 Sarah Shippabotham
- 425 Candi Mickiewicz
- 426 Leslie Ireland
- 427 Krys Comstock
- 428 Maddy Ashton
- 429 Rachel Mince
- 430 Michael Anderson
- 431 Renee Fitzpatrick Renee Fitzpatrick
- 432 Maydeh Sokaki
- 433 Julie Wood
- 434 Kate Bechtold
- 435 Alisha Larson
- 436 Neale Coppin
- 437 Amelia Landay
- 438 Erik Mammott
- 439 Michele Dieterich Michele M Dieterich
- 440 Reed Labrot
- 441 Richard Clegg Please reverse your August 4th decision!
- 442 Erin Thompson Arts, PE, and Health Education are essential to student learning in middle school. I would like to see college and career awareness not required at this age.
- 443 Kimberly Tanner
- 444 Laurie Flores
- 445 Juan Carlos Claudio I taught an entire semester at Bryant Middle School on Cultural Diversity, Equity, and Democratic Thinking through Dance and Movement with teacher Mia Andrea Butterfield, under the direction of Principal Mr. James Yapias. The results were incredible. Not only were the students able to share common experiences about their heritage and culture, but became advocates at their school and communities by providing performances, classroom exhibit, and power point research presentations. They were able to share ideas through movement, drawings and public speaking. They integrated their knowledge and experiences with their daily lives and future dreams in higher education. This allowed them to better understand the inner struggles in the adolescent years. At Bryant middle school we were able to find solutions that helped them thrive and succeed in school and in other particular subject matters. This is the kind of work that the Arts provide to our students in Utah. Dance and other Art forms are not just what most people think of as a form of entertainment, perhaps wasted time, or even for that matter belonging to the elite. But Arts in Education are a true disclosure of ideas, thoughts and aspirations our students have. These are experiences our students are interested and willing to invest and to share with the rest of the world. Please help to open

Utah education to the world of imagination, entrepreneurial, problem solving, healthy, creative and uncomplicated minds. Movement is the embodiment of thought, thinking directs action, action creates change. -Juan Carlos Claudio, MFA (Dance Artist Educator, Advocate and Mentor)

446 Suzann Heiner

447 Margo Turner

448 Pamela Jones

449 Michael Murphy Michael H Murphy

450 Daneil Hathaway

451 Renee Sass Creating a well rounded person is what our education system should be creating

452 Deb Sawyer

453 William Byrnes As a former Utah resident and former Dean of the College of Performing and Visual Arts (CPVA) at SUU, I urge the Board to reconsider the August 4 decision to remove the Middle School credit requirement for health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy. The students who studied in our college often had their arts awakening in Middle School. I can see how giving less value to these multiple educational pathways will have a negative impact on arts education in Utah and in the long run, it will diminish the quality of life in its communities

454 Nicole McDermott

455 Rebecca Maddox

456 Scott Huntsman

457 Carol Edison

458 Theresa Sanford

459 Jay Nolan

460 Chance Carroll

461 Susan F Fleming The arts provide a different kind of learning experience than regular subjects and are critical to helping students find their "voice". Some students respond to the arts very strongly at this age and can be motivated just because ART is offered. A visual and musical education is fundamental to our humanity and to creative and disciplined expression

462 Emmy Thomson

463 Jesse DeHay

464 Brandon Cressall

465 Erin Patrick

466 Liza Whiting

467 Nicole Willmore

468 Tamara Burnside

469 Harmony Button

470 Virginia Catherall

471 Gregory Rigby

472 Cindi Arnold As a music educator, I plead with you to reconsider this decision. The effects will be devastating, especially to children in poorer districts!

473 Monica Campbell

474 George Nolan Do what is best for the students.

475 Alyssa Burrows

476 Mike Tobin

477 Leona Blackbird

478 john nielsen john nielsen

479 Brian Vaughn

480 Lydia Pohly

481 Nathan Cunningham

482 Stanford Neering Stanford Neering

483 John Darcy

484 Whitney Wilde

485 Jillian Shipman

486 Britta Hughes

487 Chris Roberts I have been an elementary school teacher for 36 years and I have always taught the arts, brought arts experiences to the school and brought my students to art experiences (museums, dance performances, theatre performances, music performances). The arts are a critical part of a student's education

488 Marie Van Rosendaal

489 Yebel Gallegos

490 Victor Neves The "don't publish this" should tell me if you're going to publish my name or all of my address details

491 Kevin Cassidy

492 Megan Woods

493 Anne Hansen

494 Megan Norian

495 Michelle Field As a parent I know that the ARTS, Languages, and Physical Education have been an important part of my children's education. Please don't take these opportunities away from them

496 Todd Field

497 Garrett Collins

498 Amanda Wilkins

499. Michelle Giardina

500 Steven Kiefer I see this as a matter of just another erosion of the quality of education available. It also is typical of what I consider "transparency failures" or obfuscations by this Board, in what appears to be a lack of willingness to tackle the real issues

501. Sara Gardner

502 Sierra Christensen

503 Eric Devey

504 Cally Fla

505 Carrie Larsen

506 Amee Helt

507 Carol Johnson

508 John Clay John Clay I was a teacher for over 25 years in the Salt Lake City School District. Since retirement I have been a tutor for first generation kids at East High School. I have watched hundreds of students register for classes and wonder what to take. Art, Health, and PE have always been needed classes that students enjoy. Students need a diverse understanding to enjoy school and learn the tools that help them become productive citizens. The students I have seen often have no idea what classes to register for and having these required subjects has provided the structure they need to take classes important to them. Often students just take the "easiest" classes and that is a shame. They need to be challenged with classes that are important and structure to guide their choices

509 Brianna Larson

510 Kate Jessop

511 Ranni Adams

512 Janice Carlsen

513 Jeremy Harris It is ridiculous to think that this conversation is still happening. Please reverse your decision

514 Emma Stewart

515 Renn Butterfield

516 Tiffany Pickett

517 Megan Smith Both the arts and health education are two factors that help students learn better, and retain information for much longer. Let's move away from school for grades and move toward school for better people who walk away with real life skills that will help them contribute positively to community and country

518 holly fowles

519 Nick Marker

520 Jonathan Griffin

521 Stefania Battezzato

522 Reese Johnson

523 Briana Farr

524 Jim Tazer Arts in the schools of the state is a key ingredient in the special recipe that makes Utah so special. Do not mess with it!

525 Jill Gubler I strongly urge you to put the arts back into the schools. I have taught music lessons for 48 years and the kids who have music in their life are not only great musicians, but better at math and learn to do hard things. It makes them better people. They learn to listen better. To solve problems in small chunks. They learn that they can accomplish something huge with a daily dedication to their craft.

526 Teresa Love Thanks, Janet Cannon, my rep for voting against the change!

527 Wendi Hall

528 Diana Bella The human mind is a wondrous thing and studying music helps develop and achieve higher academic skills. In one study, music participation was shown to account for 36 percent of the variance in academic achievement. Students who study music develop faster physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. It can lead to increased learning in mathematics and science and improve reading ability in slow young readers. What an earth would motivate our leaders to do away with the one thing that can enhance a child's developing brain. This is a ludicrous and thoughtless decision and must be overturned for our children's future educational benefit

529 James Rees

530 Judy Wilkerson

531 Lou Kay Bawtharpe

532 Maria Lee

533 Katie Tazer

534 Chancey Secrist

535 Lindsey Taylor

536 Karen Anderson Karen Anderson

537 Shalynn Gibson

538 Victoria Savage

539 Cyndalynn Tiley Cyndalynn Tiley

540 Patricia West

541 Susan Schofield

542 Jason Purdie

543 Melisse Grey

544 Amanda Mills

545 Diane Asay

546 Kaitlyn Curry

547 Nathan Bennon

548 Michael Halverson

549 Holly Burton This decision is only hurting the children of Utah. How did this ever get passed? The decision needs to be reversed!

550 Wendell Hurst FINANCIALLY, narrowing the curriculum is a very bad strategy. When you take out the classes that many children love, that keep them coming to school until they graduate, you get more dropouts. Dropouts become a drain on society, in elevated social services costs, and diminished tax revenue. If a \$3 million music program in a school system keeps FIVE children from dropping out of school, it pays for itself in reduced costs for welfare and increased tax collection due to higher earnings by those FIVE children - \$600,000 over a lifetime for each one. Instrumental music, choir, drama, oil painting, watercolor, sculpture, cooking, sewing, auto mechanics, wood shop, and even athletics, are just a few of the school classes that short-sighted legislators are over-anxious to cut because they think they are too expensive. THESE CLASSES PAY FOR THEMSELVES!

Students who have a reason to love school will get their math and English homework done, and do better in all subjects, instead of just quitting, because all reading and math is stilling. We should just shell out the money now and get happy, productive GRADUATES instead of paying through the nose later to build more prisons and shelters for dropouts

551 Julia Ashworth

552 Penni Eads I understand that you think it may be easier for parents and students to choose what classes/ career path they want to take, but junior high students may not have been given the gift of music and art before junior high, and parents may not realize it's benefit in their children's lives, so it is imperative that the arts be required. It is also important to learn about health, physical education, languages and digital literacy to increase world and career awareness. I do not agree with the state school board making such an unwise decision. It makes me wonder if the Utah State Board of Education has not been educated in music and the arts, nutrition, exercise, and the importance of cultural awareness through language training. Does the Utah State Board think children will gain digital skills on their own to prepare for high school? Is there a hidden agenda along with Common Core? Please take the people of UT seriously and remove Common Core and leave these important core classes. Does the Utah State Board of Education realize that music and the arts change the world by enlightening the world, that languages, that digital skills increase communication, and that physical health improves quality of life? Music, Art, Languages, Physical Education, and Digital Literacy are all important sciences. Do what is right

553 Blair Lyon

554 Olivia Godfrey

555 Cherie Kahmann

556 Rebekah Harborthorn

557 Angela Avila

558 Karla Hartle

559 Anna McNamer

560 Shelly Bills

561 Autumn Harding

562 Elizabeth Loveridge

563 Rachel Leber

564 Julanna Gylseth "The arts are vital to a healthy culture. Physical Education is vital to a healthy community. Middle Schoolers are still in their formative years, and it's vital that we expose them to learning that will expand their view to higher virtues, and cultural refinement. The belief that children can choose on their own to enroll in arts activities during or after school is short sighted, and only provides such opportunities to families who have the money (or foresight) to enroll their children. Children / students from all walks of life deserve a quality education, including exposure to the highest forms of creativity, and personal health. We owe it to our future population and state-wide community to fill their souls with high ideals! Please see beyond money, and ensure that our students receive an arts education! As a side note, I have personally seen countless students of mine who have left the elementary school, and found themselves enrolling in a required band or orchestra only to find out that they had a gift/ability to play an instrument that they never knew they

- had before. The effects in self confidence, self-development, intellectual ability, discipline, relationship building, and life happiness are immeasurable. They come back to me thrilled about what they have accomplished! The arts provide joy, and perspective in a world that is impoverished in human spirit! Honestly, we should be doing more than simply providing classes (required classes are just a start) to help our communities be rich in culture, and it is the job of our community leaders to have greater vision of how we can encourage cultural beauty, and strength in our state "
565. Wendy Bruce
566. Camile Kilpack
567. Laura Dickey This is about as dumb as things we do in Kentucky. You like that comparison?
568. Jaime Clement
569. Rebecca O'Boyle
570. Lori Higbee
571. Linda Seamons Music helps every student. Keep it as a requirement in the middle schools.
572. Rory Scanlon
573. Marri Nielsen
574. Becky Madderman
575. Deanna Lee
576. Jorge Rodriguez
577. Sue Nielsen
578. Patrice Hunt Sometime we don't see the profound negative affect governmental decisions have on us, our children, our society until many years down the road. I think this would be a BIG mistake to remove the arts requirement from the middle school and all public schools for that matter.
579. Rebecca Montgomery
580. Lennie Swenson
581. Cynthia Richards Cynthia Vance Richards
582. Suzanne Attis Suzanne Attis
583. Melissa Livengood Melissa Livengood- It is impossible for me to comprehend how the Board of Education could think that it was a good idea to remove PE, Art, Music, etc. from Middle School curriculum. It is a shockingly misguided move. The arts help us explore what it is to be human, to look and listen with open eyes and ears. Orchestra, sports, choir, music theater... They all teach us to work together to create something wonderful. Haven't today's events shown us the importance of this?
584. Liz Edwards
585. Brady Manley
586. Rebeca Wallin
587. Crystal Young-Offerstrom
588. Sara Penny Arts enrich our lives and many students will not have access if public school programs are weakened. We value the skills of cooperation, creativity, and discipline that are involved in choir, band, orchestra, dance, and other art forms. Just for the listening skills we should have more students involved in music. If a child can hear the difference between a B and a B flat then they certainly have a much better chance of hearing the chemistry assignment. Attention to detail and so many more skills are developed through the arts. The requirement encourages the students to pursue an art form of their choice and is an essential part of being an educated person.
589. Erika Gerhards
590. Lori Samuels
591. Cassandra Broadhead Cassandra Broadhead
592. Marlene Kay After all the work that has been done in the state I to integrate the arts into the elementary curriculum, I am shocked and saddened that our state leaders would take such a backwards and short sighted step. We know better and our children deserve all the enriched education we can give them. Please don't do this!
593. Lynda Broadbent
594. Cathy Kemp
595. John Newman Removing the arts requirement could effectively eliminate drama, art, music, and dance courses in middle schools throughout the states. The requirement is one of the few balancing forces that keep middle schools from teaching reading, writing, and mathematics exclusively at the expense of the arts, humanities, and sciences.
596. Bielt Finlay I suppose if the the board of education wants a bunch of chubby, unhealthy robots to teach then they should continue with this action. PE encourages healthy activities team work and is just fun. The arts encourage critical thinking, creativity and free thinking. Oh wait, ok so chubby unhealthy robots are what the board of education wants. Save a buck somewhere else. Board of Education.
597. Molly Cannon
598. Amanda Whitaker
599. Sheri Gibb
600. Kaitlin Mills
601. Julia Barrientas
602. Jamie Siggar
603. Aubry Dalley
604. Cindy Hansen
605. Krista Perkins
606. Autumn Montgomery Autumn Montgomery
607. Suzanne Geyer I believe that having the arts is very important for our young people growing up.
608. Jesuca Baynes
609. Kathy Thompson Kathy Thompson
610. Molly Schurig Why did you even take it away in the first place? Are you morons? So many students need those classes to let off steam during the day and to cope with a lot of anxiety piled on them from core classes. Put those classes back in our schools!!
611. Valerie Evensen
612. Kenneth Cannon
613. Aubri Elder
614. Debona Escalante Debona Escalante
615. Heather Francis
616. Jesse Larsen
617. Kerri Hammond
618. Gabriela Zabka Gabriela Zabka
619. Kanna LeBaron
620. Benjamin Peterson
621. Laura Wirthlin
622. Michael McAlinsh Th School Board is making a serious mistake by eliminating art from the credit requirements for middle school. An artless society will make our country no different than the Islamic State (ISIS) which also wants to eliminate art from schools! Michael J. McAlinsh
623. Cary Edwards
624. Lola Taylor
625. Emily Strabell
626. Devin Brennan
627. Jessica Toal
628. Camella Talbot
629. Rob Swenson
630. Spencer Duncan
631. Jocelyn Soderstrom
632. Naomi Evans
633. Heather Talbot
634. Melissa Brown
635. Elizabeth Stabelund
636. Dianne Amese Dianne Amese
637. Nikole Rios Health especially needs to be offered and required, middle school is when puberty strikes. I can't believe kids in Utah might not have the opportunity to learn about what is happening to them during this difficult and awkward time. Although parents can (and arguably should) teach their children this, that simply doesn't happen enough.
638. Roger Miller I would like to hear the reasoning of those who voted to eliminate these subjects. Are the arguments anecdotal, financial, prejudiced toward other subjects deemed more helpful to young minds? Having taught "general music" in Utah public schools for several years, I know that poor curriculum design can be a problem, but it is also true that well-designed courses taught by skilled teachers can be very interesting, attractive, and valuable to young people. And, of course, all serious studies indicate the value of the arts in achieving positive educational outcomes. As for world languages, I think it should be a requirement that every member of the State School Board be fluent in at least one non-English language. The ability to speak a foreign language is the mark of any well-educated person and a central element in intercultural understanding. We Americans have a shabby record in this area and should be concerned with more and better effort in this area, not less. PE courses should include not only physical activity but education in basic nutrition. We are killing ourselves and our children with our poor eating attitudes and lack of understanding about how what we eat shapes every other aspect of our health and well being. The result is astronomical health insurance costs related to diseases and conditions that are totally preventable. Where is our common sense?
639. Alex Barlow
640. Mane-Luise Smith
641. Joel Wallin Joel R. Wallin
642. Sylvia Nibley
643. Lynden Emerson
644. Vivian Gubler
645. Vicki Wartman
646. S Rivka Levy The arts are a critical component to development AND JOY.
647. Mchiru Onizuka
648. Katherine McDonald
649. Anna Lucera
650. Cooper Wilt
651. Cynda Nygaard
652. Shoni Hansen
653. Mindy Young
654. Midge Rhodes
655. Erin Taylor
656. Hanna Gempferline
657. Patty Tabin
658. Jenifer Blackner
659. Colleen Nardin
660. Bryce Chamberlain
661. Kathleen Koprowski
662. Tamara Hill
663. Natalie Terry
664. Erin Bjorn
665. Jessica Benson
666. Wanda Halton We need to keep progressing in our education system...and that means the arts, health and PE. Arts are extremely important as creativity increases brain health and function.
667. Katherine Paulsen "The benefits of keeping arts in the schools, penetrates all areas of study.
668. Katherine Paulsen"
669. Farran Brown
670. Kristin Bennett
671. Colleen Uhl
672. Susann Spencer "These classes develop other parts of our brain that lead to resourcing and perceiving more creative and diverse solutions to even our technology driven workplace issues. These classes connect us with our unique humanity and emotional heartfelt responses to the world around us so necessary to be able to participate and offer support and solutions to make the world a more supportive, healthy, functional place for everyone.
673. Tyler Pack
674. Emily Smith
675. Lori Grant
676. Julie Hill.
677. Robin Tenbrink I am a PE and Health teacher. This is a horrible move by USBE that will negatively affect our children. Please read the research and reverse your decision.
678. J. Ryan Waddoups
679. Sara Mann Children need the arts to become well rounded contributing members of society.
680. Rabby Garrison
681. Brenda Baker
682. Scott Perry
683. Karen Kendall What more can you do to gut education in this state? The arts, PE and Health are essential components to a child's mental and physical health. Art, in particular, is often the one thing that a student that doesn't fit in anywhere else can find him/herself, the thing that connects them to school and to others, and they often find this connection in middle school - a time when self esteem is forming and bullying is rampant. To take away Art and PE from students at this age is a travesty. Do the right thing, and keep art, PE and Health in middle school curriculum.
684. Elizabeth Beebe This decision is embarrassing to our state. We need to invest in our children. They are our future.
685. Andrezza Richardson
686. Carrie Kim Deamer
687. Ann Fauts Lack of requirement equals lack of funding. These programs will not survive.
688. John Wisner
689. Heather Bunker
690. Suzanne Wagner Suzanne Wagner
691. Lacey Gatherum
692. Valerie Littleton
693. Christine Gibbs
694. Erin Noble
695. Janet Alcala
696. Demarie Lang
697. Mariah Bavara
698. Erin Ellis
699. Janae Warren
700. Rachel Arteta
701. Fahina Tavake-Pasi Fahina Tavake-Pasi
702. Lynda Banner We already have one of the lowest standards of education in the country, why would we strive to make it worse?
703. Cynthia Micken
704. Marjonn Hicken
705. Tari January
706. Jessica Hearst
707. Melissa Langhurst
708. Debra Larsen
709. Holly Harton *Students often

don't recognize an interest or talent they have until they are introduced to it and allowed to participate. Art and music classes not only teach an appreciation for the different genres of these fields, they often open doors students would never have gone through in the classroom. Physical exercise is something we need for our entire lives. The PE classes teach correct forms, variety, and also help discover some interests or talents for students. Not all students afford club sports or have parents willing to keep them try the different ones offered. The classes they take give them opportunities and exposure they otherwise would miss. Many students will not take these classes as an elective and they will miss valuable and necessary training and exposure which could change the direction of their lives for the better."

710 Steven Purcell
711 Mackenzie Hyer
712 Kimberly Opunui
713 Paul Sorenson "With obesity becoming a national serious problem, how can we take exercise out of our schools. Keeping The arts in schools is critical to our children. The arts provide an important roll to our children's lives. The all of arts stimulate our brain's creativity that affects every part of the brain. The arts also provide an outlet and diversion to every day issues and problems. It enriches every day life."

714 Stephen Voorhees
715 Duane Hill
716 Erica Womack
717 Teagan Davis "There is nothing more important in middle school than learning how beautifully large the world is, and what you can do to experience it. Taking away arts and PE enforces an attitude consistent with underachievement and being "just good enough", while also destroying the very difference between elementary and middle school, that you can learn whatever you want and excel at the subjects you enjoy the most. Don't take away that which broadened my horizons and made me the person I am today."

718 Kerl Graybill
719 Michael Croakston "Our thinking about education is missing the point so much. Look at history. Many of the cultures with the greatest mathematicians and engineers also highly valued the arts. Just because a student may not become a professional musician doesn't mean it's study doesn't have enormous merit. Learning to read, play, express, listen, collaborate, and do the mechanics of playing an instrument or making music is some of the most engaging and stimulating things in a student's day or even life and has enormous amounts of evidence to support that. Our kids need to learn to be human, and therefore they need the humanities. With an effort to put more and more technology time in for our students I would argue that the exact opposite would be better for them."

720 Judy Cox
721 Shantel Hansen Shantel C Hansen
722 Amy Jones
723 Thomas Wm Taylor "I'm a retired partner of the Boston law firm Ropes & Gray. I'm an honors graduate of Harvard Law, a Founding Fellow of the American College of Band Counselors. I was first brought to Utah for a few weeks by two law firms who needed my expertise in tax exempt finance deal involving the University in Provo and the city's plans for a trash incinerator. I solved their complex financing problem and I fell in love with Salt Lake City and the Wasatch. I am now a full, voting citizen of the State, resident in the city living in a house straight across 1300 from the McGillis School. I'm something around 74 years old and I am principal trumpet with the not-for-profit Utah Philharmonic Orchestra. I was followed to Utah by my son (now a Research Geologist on the faculty at the University) and his family. Without reservation, I join in the petition "As your constituents, we ask you to reverse your August 4th decision to remove the Middle School credit requirement for health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy." I CAME TO UTAH BECAUSE OF THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RICHNESS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL STATE PLEASE DON'T GIVE IT UP!!!!"

724 A J Martine "My daughter-in-law, Kat Martinez whom is getting very involved with political and social issues, brought this to my attention."

725 Jemina Keller
726 Rick Meyer
727 Tom Stillingner
728 Stacey Jackson "I am a veteran mathematics teacher. Students need a well rounded educational experience. Life is more than just math, science, and language arts. Having a variety of required courses positively impacts kids. Aren't we trying to educate the whole child?"

729 Teresa Conway
730 Yolane Rodriguez
731 Claudia Marsden "Please re-instate the requirements for Health, P.E. and the arts. Society is in need of individuals who are health minded. A large component of a culture is its arts. Without this we miss out on the experience, the ability to calm our own souls, to interact and perform and present through the arts."

732 James Daley
733 Ryan Wauer
734 Tray Hagemeyer
735 Christian DeYoung
736 Pamela Batista
737 Dave Lamb
738 Jason Lemmon Jason Lemmon
739 Shane Slagle
740 Kristine Marble "As a former student of public education, the ONLY thing that had my full attention was the break from the monotony. My favorite subjects were always after recess, music, art, and PE. I realize this was because my mind was refreshed. As a former teacher, I can see this is true in almost all students. Good luck trying to capture the attention of those whose imagination is unlimited."

741 Chris Bautner
742 Warren Kunz
743 Melissa Martinez
744 Melanie Watson
745 Josh Coombs
746 Paige Fox "I would not have survived High School nor succeeded with out the arts department. My saving grace through the battles of high school and junior high was the orchestra program. I met all of my friends there, it was the one class I felt comfortable in. Those subjects allow for students to find what part of society they will fit into. And people in the arts are desperately needed if the cuts to the arts continue eventually there will be no more symphonies to attend in each area, no plays on smaller levels for the everyday man, tv would lose many actors with practice. I understand the need for the stem, English and history based subjects as I am working towards a mathematics major. But all of those subjects need the arts to complete them. English with out creativity is boring. Creativity is Required for everything and the way man subjects are taught, creativity is not allowed. Without creativity from the arts society will never move forward."

747 Christopher Herrera
748 Emma Jones "If you want this generation of students to grow and make our community a better place then they need to be given the chance to do so. Music, art, sports, and language are what set students apart from others. They can excel beyond common care and make something better of themselves. Give them this opportunity."

749 Marcus Daley
750 Sandra Vander Wilt
751 Aileen Duang
752 Katelynn McKeith
753 RuthAnn Bateman
754 Casey Kaldewyn
755 Ashley Magaffin
756 Heidi Bautner
757 Madison Faulger
758 David Thalmann David Thalmann
759 Sara Wilson
760 Raquel Carrillo Raquel
761 Lace Shirley
762 Rick Hendricks
763 Melanie Geang
764 Lisa Bergantz
765 Lisa Lamb
766 Lawson Nolan "Remember the value of teaching the whole child and not just training them to be workers. A child is more than the 40 hour job they will work some day. They are humans that need to be taught to have cultural experiences that will allow them to be compassionate, thoughtful and intelligent adults."

767 Max Ishihara
768 Michael Bautner
769 Patricia Clay "Children need to be exposed to all the areas of education. Do not leave up to the districts!! Have a backbone and don't hand your responsibilities away."

770 Miguel Chuauqui
771 Joseph Hutchinson
772 Barbara Scowcroft
773 Denise Keller
774 Bonnie Mortensen
775 Amanda McKibbin
776 Kristen Darrington
777 Brian Bennett "The arts are every bit as important as all other school subjects-what makes life worth living!"

778 William Marsh "I believe it is important to have the arts, health, and PE in the middle school curriculum to provide a more rounded education for the students."

779 Emily Nelson
780 Klaudia Nelson
781 Brian Despan
782 Bridgett Johnson
783 Jennifer Murphy
784 David Clay "Please, if our state board is going to use states to back their decisions, they also have to give credit to the research that has been done to defend these subjects in school. You can't just ignore them."

785 Annalise Egan
786 Cara Pomeroy

787 Abby Clay
788 Nachele McEwan
789 Monica Kelly
790 Kelly Ball
791 Jaynanne Nauman
792 Annette Spanhower
793 Angelina Arnold
794 Sam Dixon "This should not be an issue. It should always be part of the curriculum."

795 Tammy Drager Tammy Drager
796 Daniel Stringham "Getting rid of PE results in more fat people."

797 Jennifer Hinchman "The arts and physical education are so important! They help transfer learning of all other subjects. PLEASE do not take these classes away."

798 Darren Saunders
799 Jana Wilhite "Middle schools arts classes helped me through a difficult time of loneliness and discomfort. Middle school is hard. Classes in the arts and PE can help students become comfortable with themselves, and all of these classes will prepare them for the future."

800 Mariah Mellus "I'm very disheartened and disappointed that the State School Board would cut the requirement for classes like Health, P.E., Arts and College and Career Readiness. Those classes are essential in providing coping skills for adult life. Taking the weight of these classes away is a societal tragedy that will have serious ramifications for generations."

801 Clara Lee
802 Renel Rytting
803 Clive Romney
804 Ashley Clark
805 RuthAnn Taylor
806 Leo Beecher
807 Carrie O
808 Dawn Blood
809 Jerry Clark
810 Chenee Beach
811 Kathy Bekkemellom
812 Joseph Cochran
813 Sandy Krueger
814 Alisha Hagey
815 Leslie Brock
816 Susan Earl
817 Gayle M
818 Eric Noyes
819 Jody Reid "Education is best accomplished when the entire person is considered. The elimination of these requirements will lead to lasting detrimental effects upon the children as indicated by abundant research."

820 Cassidy Ludeman
821 Ian Ludeman
822 Jenne Ruth Alvey
823 Eve Garcia "My two boys, ages 8 and 13, would never choose to take a class in the arts. They don't think that they're good at it. But as their mother, I know that they need it as part of their education. I want them to experience doing something outside of their experience. Whether they love it or hate it, the arts teaches students to see the world and themselves in a whole new way. That perspective building experience is worth so much to their education."

824 Rachelle French
825 Christina Jacobs
826 Nila Wootton
827 Jenny Aguilar
828 Kathi Lamb
829 Leland Daller
830 Nancy Andersen
831 H New
832 Corinne Apetzegua

- 833 Laura Decker Everyone learns differently. In fact, most people learn best through interactive education like the arts. This ruling falsely claims that parents can make informed decisions about their students' electives and can supplement what they don't get at school with extracurricular activities. This assumption privileges students whose parents are active in their education and who come from families who can afford extracurricular activities! I work in education and know you cannot undervalue options!
- 834 Thomas Durham The GREEKS understood the importance of the arts, and particularly MUSIC as it was part of the ancient curriculum for all those who called themselves civilized and educated. It was taught alongside grammar, arithmetic, logic, dialectic, astronomy, and geometry. THIS was the bedrock core of Western Civilization's educational origins.
- 835 Kate Jepsen
- 836 Porter Sprout A diverse education is critical to developing well-rounded members of society. We thrive when we allow education to be experimental and expose our young people to a variety of subjects.
- 837 Paul Krueger
- 838 Jayna Stark
- 839 Wendy Tyler
- 840 Sara Susov As an educator, I recognize the importance of keeping these classes in our system. These are the classes that students come to school for. These are the classes that help my ADHD kiddos get their energy out. Making these classes optional is not only a bad idea for teachers, but also for students. This will allow students to do a half of day of school and then leave, since they're not required to be there all day. The students in elementary, middle, and high schools are generally not intrinsically motivated, and removing these classes will give them an excuse to skip school, or not graduate at all.
- 841 Kathryn Galey
- 842 Annie Hanks
- 843 Brendan French
- 844 Jeanette Nicholls
- 845 Nancy White
- 846 Janet Laureiro
- 847 Karl Behling The arts are vital to a complete education. We are preparing the next generation of leaders of industry and leaders of nations. If they fail the world tomorrow, it's on us today.
- 848 Katie Clegg
- 849 Mara Kellogg The arts teach kids how to be human and how to express themselves in creative ways. We need more of that in the world, not less.
- 850 Melinda Hilyard
- 851 Melissa Lander
- 852 Mari Keller Mari Keller
- 853 Chase Mullen These things are vital in everyone's development.
- 854 Donna Radmall This is too important to let drop through the cracks of public opinion. No one I have talked to is in favor of this law. Many are just shaking their heads in disbelief!
- 855 Janet Fericks
- 856 Kristen Hughes
- 857 Jackie Poll
- 858 Christine Graham
- 859 Alondra Melendez
- 860 Kelly Stanton
- 861 Miles Rytting
- 862 Alondra Diaz
- 863 Annie Azeveda
- 864 Isaac Azeveda III
- 865 Camilla Frank
- 866 Beth Blackburn
- 867 Joanne Rowland
- 868 Cristina Reyes
- 869 Lyssa Epperson
- 870 Donald Buchanan Arts and Physical Education are simply not optional.
- 871 Gordon Epperson To get rid of arts credits in junior high is the dumbest idea since common core. The best way for kids to learn math and even history is music! Music has brought about revolutionary changes. People are going to lose their jobs because you idiots won't give more funding to schools so you can fill your own pockets. You legislators are fired!
- 872 Bobi Taylor
- 873 Sarah Scriber
- 874 MacKenzie Largent
- 875 Diane Morrell
- 876 Anna Smith
- 877 Shawn Stringham
- 878 Kim Ayala
- 879 James Perkins
- 880 Gaby Galvan
- 881 Angie Paskett
- 882 Dorian Shields
- 883 Robert Lemmon
- 884 Patricia Lambdin Horrible decision for our students!
- 885 Kristene Searle
- 886 Samantha Farr
- 887 Jennifer Lee
- 888 Angee Tanner
- 889 Alexia Crandall
- 890 Laurel (Lark) Galli Laurel Galli
- 891 Kraig Varner Study what Finland has done and stop screwing around!!!!
- 892 Shelli Smith
- 893 Lynda Roper
- 894 Kevin Talbot Knowledge of Arts, Physical Education, and Health are vital to being a well rounded individual. I hope that the School Board can find a way to provide for building a full and rich experience for our growing young people.
- 895 Kalista Leggat
- 896 Debbie Dutton
- 897 Laura Cannon
- 898 Rich Lambert
- 899 Amanda Elton
- 900 Jill Rindisbacher
- 901 Melanie Bateman
- 902 Elin Davis
- 903 Gemma Grover
- 904 Giselle Ruzheta
- 905 Kristin McQuivey I feel that these classes are incredibly important for our youth. Please reconsider your decision. Art, Health, and PE add great value and are integral to a complete and well-rounded education.
- 906 Madeleine Homer
- 907 Matt Fields
- 908 Abby Wilson
- 909 Rebecca Vail
- 910 Rachel Lewis
- 911 Lizzy Ungeiman
- 912 JoLin Cook
- 913 Jeanine Reeves
- 914 Kristen Nichols
- 915 Deborah Brey
- 916 Lexie Carbett
- 917 Alyssa Horton
- 918 Catherine Gentry
- 919 Rachel Williams
- 920 Nicole Howard
- 921 Shoe Bunker Don't reverse historical progress.
- 922 Chase Dalton
- 923 Stacy Goulding
- 924 Raii Andersen Raonald W Andersen
- 925 Carlyn Smith I think health and pe are some of the most valuable subjects kids should be taking in school. They affect kids life decisions and over all well being.
- 926 Christen Anderson
- 927 Dave Harris
- 928 Whitney Marcum
- 929 Nichole Young Clarke
- 930 Lammert Veenstra At 70, I still benefit from the instrumental music of junior high (middle) school.
- 931 Ann Larsen
- 932 Ashley Asley
- 933 Niels Hansen
- 934 Colette Sawyer
- 935 Elisabeth Nebeker Elisabeth Nebeker
- 936 Claudia Killian
- 937 Cindy Rosenlund I can't believe this was ever removed in the first place. Junior high is a tough transition age anyway, why would you not want to give them every advantage for success and better outlets for their changing and overactive hormones. Thank you for reconsidering this decision.
- 938 Shelly Christensen Shelly Christensen. As a certified teacher in Canyons district, and mother of 5. I can assure you that PE, arts and music classes are essential to the well being and balance of developing young students. Many may say that students can get this kind of education outside of public education but that is an elitist belief. Students who are not exposed to or have opportunities to participate in Arts and PE at school may never have the opportunity due to financial restrictions.
- 939 Benjamin Phillips
- 940 Denise Wad
- 941 Taylor Jennings
- 942 Janice Bentley There is too much pressure on our students already and they need to learn healthy ways to cope with stress. PE allows students to move freely and learn about themselves in a way that a classroom environment cannot. Health should be mandatory for all students. Our country has the highest rates of obesity in the world and our children need to be educated on healthy nutrition and choices. Utah also has one of the highest suicide rates for teens - Health classes cover healthy coping techniques and helps to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health issues.
- 943 Evelyn Partner Evelyn Partner
- 944 Jennifer Morgan
- 945 Sharon Fletcher Sharon Naomi Fletcher
- 946 Laura Taggart
- 947 Patrick Hubley
- 948 Janet McIntosh As a middle school math teacher, I feel it is critical to provide our students with a well balanced education. These classes offer students a creative venue to explore and develop their unique talents. It gives some students a reason to succeed in their education. It is a detriment to our youth not to educate them in what a healthy lifestyle entails and show them through physical activity that is provided through PE classes. This is the only physical activity some students receive. In an increasingly sedentary society, it is critical that we at least provide awareness to students on the health effects due to healthy or unhealthy living so they are able to make better life choices.
- 949 Sarita Chesley
- 950 Rachel Bates
- 951 Stephanie Verdoia
- 952 Patricia Legant Participation in music, art, and PE fosters friendships across social class, ethnicity, color, and religion, potentially creating more tolerant adults.
- 953 Sarah Howe The Arts are extremely important. Students cannot be fully educated without PE, Health and the Arts. The loss of these three areas would have a tremendous impact on our students. Schools today retain students who may have dropped out had it not been for the Arts and Sports. This does not help the public education system, but rather disservices everything that public ed represents.
- 954 Judi Morse Top the corruption in the school system
- 955 Monika Jones
- 956 Samantha Robison Samantha Robison
- 957 Felicia Baca
- 958 Janel Williams
- 959 Jena Woodbury
- 960 Elayna Pedersen
- 961 Thomas Hoffman
- 962 Anna Podwys
- 963 Kandace Steadman Kandace Steadman
- 964 Emma Siddaway
- 965 Gretchen Dietrich
- 966 Chris Conard
- 967 Cheyanne Anderson
- 968 Erin Call
- 969 Tiffany Horrocks
- 970 Charlotte Hurley For some of our children, this is the only time during their day that they can relax and not feel like they are running in last place. These credits are essential for a well rounded education.
- 971 Jeff Horne
- 972 Ann Gibson
- 973 Kristen Neilson
- 974 Leslie Parrott
- 975 Jorge Rojas
- 976 Aaron Anderson If you remove health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy what remains to be taught, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic? What would they read and write about if they don't have their arts or world languages. As far as I'm concerned, cut PE. I hated it in elementary school, I hated it in Jr. High, I hated it in High School and I still hate it. But the moment you start cutting one program, others have to go too. Where does this lunacy end?
- 977 Amberly Lambertsen
- 978 Bryan Remney If this requirement is deleted from the requirements of Junior High School Education, it represents a GIANT step backwards to our society. What a disservice to our future generation this represents. How will these children appreciate these vital elements in their lives unless we require them to at least be given the chance to experience these vital aspects to life. If deleted, this tells our future leaders that it isn't important to us so why should it be important to them. What a legacy we'd leave them. So sad that this would even be talked about yet alone to be considered an option.
- 979 Emily Jorgensen I am a former music teacher, now parent. I have seen the effects music and the arts have on young minds and it is astounding. It baffles me that with all research done that you have made this decision. I strongly suggest you reconsider, for the

- 980 benefit of our children
- 981 Sara Lambros
- 982 Christine Boazek
- 983 Becca Keel
- 984 Rande Lloyd
- 985 Britta Bourdaghs
- 986 David Hawkins There are hosts of peer-review research (some conducted here at our own U of U) demonstrating the value of creative studies and structured physical education on children's development, academic performance, and overall well-being. Please restore funding to these vital areas for our middle school children.
- 987 Craig E. Ferrin, PhD "In the future, anything that can be turned into an algorithm will be outsourced to computers or if the algorithm requires human interaction it will be outsourced to other countries where it can be done with substantially less expense. That, where does that leave the United States and the State of Utah. We must do what we have always done, we must be the creators, the designers, the innovators. The only jobs left will be "creative" jobs and service jobs. Therefore, by eliminating arts from our children's we are literally cutting their economic throats. Being creative takes knowledge and skills that are not learned in Science, Technology or Math. I do have to make my nod to engineers because they will be part of the creative class. When it comes to PE and Health I can hardly wrap my head around this one. What is the school board thinking? We have an obesity epidemic that is crippling our children and they are eliminating the instruction to live healthy lives and the space to exercise and live happy lives now. The people on the school board need to be more concerned about how people make a life, not just on how to make a living."
- 988 Patricia Richards Research supports the value of music in wiring the brain for learning, creativity and future success. Music and the arts are central to modern education.
- 989 Sara Hultberg
- 990 John Leonard
- 991 Jared Covington
- 992 Linda Price
- 993 Mindy Wilson
- 994 Christopher Nolan
- 995 Jessica George
- 996 Lacia Ashton
- 997 Rachel Marie Kimball We need to be concerned about educating the WHOLE child, which includes their ability to create and to be in touch with their WHOLE being! Eliminating the requirement for students to engage in health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy is a disservice to those in the rising generation (as well as those to come!) Our nation craves understanding, innovative citizens who care about their own well-being as well as the well-being of others. The courses previously mentioned are designed to create such individuals as they help address areas of the child that would go untouched and untaught in their other various courses.
- 998 Colleen Hodgkinson
- 999 Kristen Elliott
- 1000 Ocea Cay
- 1001 Richard Laughlin Richard Laughlin
- 1002 Elise Butterfield
- 1003 Cheylynn Hayman
- 1004 Mally Janke
- 1005 Linda Burbank
- 1006 Suzi Montgomery This is a move in the wrong direction. Arts and sports and health are essentials. Adults always talk about the importance of a life/work balance - what are we doing with our children?
- 1007 Sarah Mohr
- 1008 Michele Brimhall
- 1009 Dennis Busch
- 1010 Nancy Rivera
- 1011 Kelly Basley
- 1012 Lisa Pappleton Arts education is a critical component in creative thinking, problem solving, and developing communication skills. Physical education provides the movement needed to energize the brain and body for better learning, and introduces children to sports and other activities they can pursue for good health throughout their lives. Obviously, children need to learn principles of a healthy lifestyle, they may not have healthy role models at home. Eliminating the credit requirement for world languages is a serious mistake in this interconnected world, and will contribute to Utah becoming a provincial backwater. Learning a foreign language is most easily achieved at a young age. No requirement for digital learning???? Seriously? The decision to eliminate credit requirements for these subjects is a blow to the quality of Utah schools that will impact the future of the state's students, and make the state a less desirable place to re-locate for those considering to move here. Boy, am I glad my son is already grown and out of here.
- 1013 Paige Wightman
- 1014 Barbara Murdock
- 1015 Sarah Bailey
- 1016 Sara Neal
- 1017 Krishna Rabb
- 1018 Emma Ryder
- 1019 Katelynn Kilian
- 1020 David Barney
- 1021 Matthias Westwood
- 1022 Catherine Rockwood
- 1023 Bruce Brinkman
- 1024 Kate Benson
- 1025 Whitney Hill
- 1026 Maria Zandrea
- 1027 Nikki Shelton
- 1028 Anne Bowen
- 1029 Kayla White Kayla White
- 1030 Keisey Hale
- 1031 Lynne Larson
- 1032 Olivia Talley
- 1033 Jessica Sobey
- 1034 Roberta Schlicher
- 1035 Tara Putnam
- 1036 Emma Holt
- 1037 Nancy Wood
- 1038 Julia Fabyan
- 1039 Jill Sheinberg Education must address the whole child. Children learn through different ways. The arts and physical physical education reach some children in ways that traditional academics do not.
- 1040 Sonja Lunde Sonja Lunde
- 1041 Mara Carrasco
- 1042 McKenna Miles
- 1043 Alyssa Dalton
- 1044 Alex Walker
- 1045 Rosa Steed
- 1046 Anita Murphy
- 1047 Scott Tarbet If our purpose in teaching school is to prepare well-rounded adults to be contributing members of society, how can it possibly be the right thing to do to cut College & Technical Education (including College &
- Career Awareness, computer literacy, etc.) from the required curriculum? Of the several negative effects of this change, this seems the most wrong-headed on its face.
- 1048 Hannah Owen
- 1049 Jill Johnson
- 1050 Kristin Goeser U-Fit Adapted Physical Activity Program
- 1051 Curtis Dunford
- 1052 Brandon Huntington
- 1053 Anna Moore
- 1054 Mesa Weidle
- 1055 Jaanj Woodbury
- 1056 Carly Neison
- 1057 MaKell Staley
- 1058 Daniel Adams I am an advocate for the Arts in all public schools. The benefit of the Arts for our family of six children is obvious in their lives and the lives of our grandchildren.
- 1059 Monica Harrison
- 1060 Jordann Franks
- 1061 Kristen Rand
- 1062 Rachel Waters
- 1063 Brianne Bailey
- 1064 Madeline Conlee
- 1065 Diane Nichols
- 1066 Adrian Lambros
- 1067 Luke Lewis
- 1068 Victoria Bailey
- 1069 Sherril Hulten In whatever career or passion young students migrate, the lessons found in the arts is unparalleled. Problem solving, creativity, working in a group, public speaking, thinking outside the box - whether going into engineering, art, law, or any field - these skills and more are essential. And this reason is merely the tip of the iceberg.
- 1070 Christine Hendricks
- 1071 Emily Izzo
- 1072 Sydnee Stokes
- 1073 David Davis
- 1074 Benjamin Wright These classes are so important.
- 1075 Katherine Patter
- 1076 Karen Shepherd The arts underpin the harder skills children learn, especially math and reading. They change the way children's minds work for the better - we need them in all our schools!
- 1077 Rachel Black
- 1078 Barbara Richardson
- 1079 Ely Baldwin
- 1080 Matthew Davis
- 1081 Rachel Formica
- 1082 Lori Edmunds Lori Edmunds
- 1083 Jeanette Sawaya
- 1084 Diane LeBeauf
- 1085 Heidi Mortensen
- 1086 Joshua Stavros
- 1087 Kami Terry Paul Kami Terry Paul
- 1088 Christine Martindale
- 1089 Alexis Watts
- 1090 Jan Clark Arts are the only reason I finished high school (I've made a career in the arts. Three careers, actually).
- 1091 Jana Palmer My 7th grade drama class changed my life for the better, and theatre continues help me learn and grow. As a junior high drama teacher, I have seen drama make a difference in the lives of students, and I would like my children to have the opportunity to learn from the arts as well.
- 1092 Jodi Brewer "Not sure how taking away arts, language, physical education and health education is supposed to help the next generation to be better world citizens (and isn't that the goal of education at all levels?) Take those things away and what are you leaving behind? Fat, lazy kids who don't know how to eat properly, talk to people in other countries, learn about other cultures or know what to do with their excess creative energy. Don't we already have enough of that? Jodi."
- 1093 Brandon Burk
- 1094 Danica Ingram
- 1095 Gina Dalton Gina Dalton
- 1096 Philp Hermanson
- 1097 K'Lani Weston
- 1098 Darlene Bruchez Darlene Bruchez
- 1099 Tracy Fiquet
- 1100 Lori Lee
- 1101 Tamra Phillips
- 1102 Josh Hopkins
- 1103 Jenny Grash
- 1104 Pat Turner
- 1105 Tracy Fisher Removing the arts, health and PE requirements is a travesty. I was a shy teenager, not the most popular, and the arts - specifically band and drama - gave me a safe haven where I flourished and came out of my shell to end up First Chair Clarinet my whole high school career. As well as pick up the Saxophone my junior year to help out the jazz band. It gave me the courage to take dance in college and to test and get my silver, bronze and gold medals in International Latin. Through the arts, I gained confidence, social skills, and made it so I could relate to others in my profession as a market research professional.
- 1106 William Sadler
- 1107 Nicole Marriott
- 1108 Page Fletcher
- 1109 Lauen Hoover
- 1110 Kari Schreck
- 1111 Marilyn Salguero
- 1112 Rachel Young
- 1113 Patricia Miller
- 1114 Tara James Tara Evans
- 1115 Doug De Bry
- 1116 Brian Hoyt
- 1117 Clint Felton Obtaining physical health is a prerequisite to any college or career choice. Either make time for health/wellness or take time for illness.
- 1118 Tomica Boehrer
- 1119 Leslie Bangerter
- 1120 Leslie Anderson
- 1121 Keven Prusak Before taking this step, you would do well to learn of the recent research about the academic benefits of physical activity in the public school settings. Healthy kids learn better. Active kids concentrate better. Brain functions are stimulated. Creative centers in the brain are augmented. Solution seeking and social skills are honed. It would be very shortsighted to remove PE and recess from our children's school day. Indeed, more would be beneficial.
- 1122 Laurel Summerhays
- 1123 Andree Ciese
- 1124 Zach Murray
- 1125 Stasha Stratton
- 1126 Brooke Clyde
- 1127 Ashley Starr
- 1128 Alison Arndt-Wild For all of the research supported reasons presented in this position, arts, health, and physical education should be required in all of Utah public education.
- 1129 Susan Phelan Susan Phelan
- 1130 Marcia Harrison
- 1131 Krystal Weier
- 1132 Danielle White
- 1133 Katrina Andrus PE is critical as children are becoming more and more sedentary. They need to learn different ways to be active and healthy so they can grow up and be positive contributors.

- to society
- 1134 Nicole Katsos
- 1135 Robin Telesco
- 1136 Becky Stucker
- 1137 Kayla Richmond
- 1138 Jacquelynn Tietjen
- 1139 Karl Emerson
- 1140 Lise Arias
- 1141 Meghan Flint
- 1142 Christina Jones Thinking back to the tumultuous developments and transitions that middle school held, I can't imagine how I would have gotten through it without the creative thinking involved in art class. It was the one time of day where I was able to feel like I was achieving something tangible, and it encouraged me to persevere through the more difficult subjects. Eliminating arts, health, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy would be detrimental to all students' education, and takes away the aspects of school that allow them thrive the most
- 1143 Penny Stubbs Penny
- 1144 Kaela Lunt
- 1145 Rebecca Burrage Rebecca Burrage
- 1146 Carol Allred I am a professional singer and voice teacher because of the music classes that inspired me in school. This was also where I found like-minded friends, felt a sense of belonging, developed my ear (which must happen early in life), and built my confidence and identity as a performer. Please don't remove this crucial part of a child's education. For many it is where they feel happiest and most at home in school, and the place where discipline and self-esteem truly are allowed to flourish. For me it brought unparalleled joy and made me look forward to school every day. Sincerely, Dr. Carol Ann Allred Assistant Professor, Lecturer, Voice University of Utah*
- 1147 McKenzie Stowell
- 1148 Kerri Hopkins This is a backwards move, Utah. Our students deserve better!
- 1149 Nila Jane Autry Nila Jane Autry
- 1150 Hillary Hahn
- 1151 Rosalee Davis
- 1152 Christine Mills
- 1153 Kassie Whitaker
- 1154 Eric Burton
- 1155 Krista Bulloch
- 1156 Heather Garrett Heather Garrett
- 1157 Robert Morphis The ARTS are as essential as food and air -- they spur creativity, encourage problem-solving, and help young people appreciate the contributions and perspectives of others. They help build character traits such as patience, empathy, self-worth, and determination. The ARTS, along with HEALTH education and PHYSICAL education round out individuals as they learn to become good citizens of the community. The ARTS are what ignited my own interest in learning -- far beyond the "3 R's!"
- 1158 Aileen Luu
- 1159 Jennie Nicholls-Smith
- 1160 Jennifer Shelley
- 1161 Linzy Coanradt
- 1162 Charles Brandt
- 1163 Natalie Bass Please leave these subjects as a requirement. It is very important and these subjects have great benefits for the students
- 1164 Tracy Rogers
- 1165 Landon Troester
- 1166 Jyl Shuler
- 1167 Susan Alldredge
- 1168 Sara Goertner
- 1169 Tara Wardle
- 1170 Darcy Marvin I don't understand the decision to remove these important subjects from the required courses. There is so much research showing how much they are needed to improve the other core subjects
- 1171 Annie Nielsen
- 1172 Tammy Bell
- 1173 Trevor Kunkel
- 1174 Siobhan Kelley
- 1175 Raegan Schorman
- 1176 Shari Troester
- 1177 Pam Campbell
- 1178 Gary Kroll
- 1179 Nancy Veit
- 1180 Whitney Hunsaker
- 1181 Kayla Pontius
- 1182 Kristen Smith Are we educating the whole child or not?
- 1183 Jenna Dye
- 1184 Lindsey Heing
- 1185 Jo Ellen Shaeffer
- 1186 Meghan Tanner
- 1187 Kristi Critchlow
- 1188 Beth Goldberg
- 1189 Stephanie Norton
- 1190 Mackenzie Coffey
- 1191 Emily Sanders Please keep the arts as a requirement. As a teacher, I'm working to help educate students in being a well-rounded person.
- 1192 Robyn Hath
- 1193 Tammy Hanson Tammy Hanson
- 1194 Jacquelyn Morgan
- 1195 Barbara LaCrosse
- 1196 Kathryn Lipscomb
- 1197 Coralee Karmazyn
- 1198 Sara McAlfee
- 1199 Amanda Mahoney
- 1200 Kami Garcia
- 1201 Bonnie Cooper
- 1202 Katie Hockett
- 1203 Cassandra Stephens
- 1204 Kristy Carter
- 1205 Janet Massimo
- 1206 Mary Bayer
- 1207 Julianne Goss
- 1208 Corinne Stone
- 1209 Saundra Fife
- 1210 Angela Adams
- 1211 Tashia Eldred
- 1212 Jamie Hoffman
- 1213 Leanne Paulsen
- 1214 Kristin Rector The NOVA Chamber Music Series music education initiative, The NOVA Music Project has enriched thousands of students education experiences resulting in improved proficiency in reading, writing, and math. Please reverse your August 4th decision
- 1215 Kim Rimmach
- 1216 Natalie Nielsen
- 1217 Nicole Lavelly
- 1218 Jan Smith
- 1219 Melissa Deletant
- 1220 Anette Altenburg
- 1221 Martin Briggs I've been a classroom teacher (2nd grade, Spanish dual immersion) for several years, and have just begun teaching PE this year. I understand how important academic time is, but to make better use of it, students truly need the arts and PE as a support to their academic learning. By allowing the arts and PE to still be taught, students will perform better in the classroom. Just check the research.
- 1222 Kristine Alder
- 1223 Samuel Averett
- 1224 Carmen Flores
- 1225 McKae Osborn
- 1226 Camille Warkentin
- 1227 Heather Miller
- 1228 Wendy Temple
- 1229 Tori Dunkley
- 1230 Linda Davis
- 1231 Kim Gerun
- 1232 Kristi Wilson
- 1233 Michele Jones It is important that we provide a high quality, well-rounded education to all of our children
- 1234 Heidi Jensen
- 1235 Susan Briggs Bring back Health Ed, PE, and Art. We need these classes in the schools...I am shocked with children as obese as they are that Physical Ed would be taken away...Health Ed should be taught every day! I taught Health and it is vital!!!
- 1236 Cindy Kohler
- 1237 Christine Stone
- 1238 Carol Pearson
- 1239 Kristina Wilson
- 1240 Shanna O'Curran
- 1241 Maurie Jones
- 1242 Kelli Knight PE, health, and art are critical to the development of the mind. Excluding these from the curriculum is a disservice to our children.
- 1243 Heidi Henderson
- 1244 Corey Hansen Save the Arts!
- 1245 Michael Vierela
- 1246 Janice Olsen I can't believe that the importance of the arts and PE classes are not being recognized! These classes are beneficial to all students and should NEVER be eliminated as classes that earn credit.
- 1247 Julianne Basinger
- 1248 DeAnn Neal I'm a science teacher but these programs are vital to the development of the "whole person" and actually add to my ability to teach science.
- 1249 Shannon Sanders
- 1250 Betsy Spiegel
- 1251 Emily Larsen The arts are a vital part of every student's education. They are imperative in teaching creativity, critical thinking, and communication! Please bring back the arts & PE requirements.
- 1252 Jan Baker
- 1253 Paula Fowler The arts, health and PE are part of a well-rounded education for students, and provide variety in the school day for young brains. Additionally, it would be difficult for high school programs to continue to serve students with classes in these curriculum areas when they miss introductory learning in them during middle school years.
- 1254 Rita Osborne
- 1255 Barbara Faust Music and arts education has been an invaluable addition to my education and also for my children. We have all chosen to enter the medical field and having a "whole education" fosters critical thinking, interacting appropriately with others, and engaging the mind to enhance learning of all subjects.
- 1256 Ashley Firth
- 1257 Reid Anderson
- 1258 Sheri Barber
- 1259 Katherine Devenport
- 1260 Malinda Probst Art education is extremely vital in the public school system.
- 1261 Irina Gushin
- 1262 Samantha Laubacher
- 1263 Cami Russell Of course we need these programs! Students need the Arts in their life as well as P.E! This is why America is so overweight, because we stupidly cut P.E. Students, kids, need
- to be able to get up and run around, play sports and games, and not just sit behind a desk all day! And the Arts! Music, theater, art, these are skills needed in life! This is a way to express yourself! PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THIS AWAY FROM OUR KIDS!!!
- 1264 Cole Wilkes
- 1265 Ali Pack The arts are so critical at this age. This is the time when students will discover a passion for music, or dance, or drawing. These skills learned in the arts will teach students to think critically and creatively, and how to address and respond to problems that may arise in their lives. If they are not required to take these courses, the passion may very well go undiscovered - a true tragedy. Utah has such a rich heritage in the arts, please bring it back and help our young students ignite the fire and carry on that legacy
- 1266 Melissa Shelton
- 1267 Jessica Chamberlain
- 1268 Mike Nascimento This was a foolish mistake and I hope it is rescinded shortly
- 1269 Amanda Cornwell
- 1270 Jenna Rhodes
- 1271 Claudia Kirby
- 1272 Loretta Orsini I believe keeping the arts and physical education out of the curriculum is a huge mistake. It is important for children to learn where their strengths and interests lie. They are not going to necessarily get that if the curriculum is narrowed to reading, writing, math, and science. Many households cannot afford to enroll their kids in private lessons, so the exposure the kids get at school is very important. Also, many research studies (see references above) have shown that arts and physical education enhance a child's learning. The participation also helps kids get involved socially and make friends in a way they may not if just participating in academic classes. I was involved with music much of my junior high years and performed very well in my classes. Some of my best memories from junior high school (they didn't have middle school then) are of performing with and playing for choir and band.
- 1273 Charisse Baxter
- 1274 Rebecca Knudsen
- 1275 Mark Stephenson
- 1276 Shelby Hooley
- 1277 Madison Nielson
- 1278 Lela G. Christensen
- 1279 Janell Jacklin
- 1280 Wendy El-Bakri
- 1281 Canne Wyckoff
- 1282 Elise Bailey
- 1283 Kathy Laikin
- 1284 Laura Haynie I am a PE teacher and know the value of requiring physical education. There will always be "the athletes" that choose this course but the ones that need it the most are the ones that usually think they don't like it and would choose another course. Don't take away the requirement to work out our bodies, to keep them moving, to learn coordination. Our bodies need to move and taking away this course will be detrimental.
- 1285 Brooke Barragar
- 1286 Connor Rodrigo
- 1287 Stephanie Hunt Students need this programs to be successful at school!
- 1288 Allegra Garrett
- 1289 Brenda Thurman Brenda Thurman
- 1290 Amanda Spackman
- 1291 Rebecca Cheney
- 1292 Allison Cowdell

- 1293 Jack Andrus
 1294 Anna cos anna cos
 1295 brady schvareveldt As a history teacher I can say these subjects are DESPERATELY needed. School is about so much more than becoming STEM robots. They need to learn the skills and have the experiences to become AWESOME PEOPLE!
- 1296 Valerie Plawman
 1297 Jane Marian
 1298 Marci Wecker
 1299 Kassey King
 1300 Connie Eastman
 1301 Redge Palmer
 1302 Audrey Norton
 1303 Shauna Peacock
 1304 Cammie Seal
 1305 Katherine Hagan
 1306 Mayra Sanchez
 1307 Ashlee Urry
 1308 Lalan Warr If you're trying to cut costs, this isn't the place to cut! Our youth, more now than ever, need the arts through Physical Education as well as the Fine Arts! We are stripping our younger generation of valuable and essential foundational skills and benefits that come only through these avenues PLEASE RETHINK YOUR DECISION!!!
- 1309 Barbara Thornley Children need a well-rounded education!
- 1310 Amy Crane
 1311 Thomi Liebich
 1312 Cassie Montana
 1313 Cassie Reese
 1314 Lisa Craghead
 1315 Kari Heaps
 1316 Paul Hill
 1317 Vivian Gayol
 1318 Rebecca Holm Please don't take away the arts from our children- especially music. Kids need to have a well rounded education and that includes opportunities for artistic expression
- 1319 Germane Morazan
 1320 Bonnie Bennett
 1321 Ashley Bassett
 1322 Annette Francis Annette Francis
 1323 Lan Lancaster
 1324 Sarah Andersons
 1325 Karen North Art encourages creative thinking and problem solving. Art opens imaginations and allows for individuality. Art makes the world a more interesting and visual place. Art opens hearts and minds and produces citizens who are more engaged with society.
- 1326 Ashlyn Turville Physical Education and Health are crucial classes to be taught during the adolescent age. Growing up, gym was a dumb class that made you sweat and look gross throughout the day and health class was a joke. PE and Health classes should be taken seriously by the administrations of schools. If PE and Health classes were more science orientated verses the easy A you get just by showing up, they would become more effective and taken seriously.
- 1327 Mathu Crandall "Dear legislators and board members, As a parent, educator, avid runner and one who suffers from ADHD, it is important to me that PE, health and the arts remain junior high and high school requirements. I was a poor student and did not excel in traditional academic areas. Being "forced" to take required arts classes I found my success in drama and photography. PE allowed me a place to unwind, refocus and recharge. I was never an athlete, but since I was required to take the class I
- did better during the day on PE days verses non-PE days. As a parent I am appalled that this is even being considered. We are a very active family as well as one rooted deep in the arts. My children will end up taking these classes any how, but as we've been discussing this in my classroom with my students, most don't plan to choose these classes. The number one reason being, they claim they are not good at sports, are uncoordinated, unartistic, can't sing, never tried it before. The list like this goes on and on. Please keep PE, art and health classes as requirements for all students, I hate to see those kids miss something they may end up loving and succeeding with. Regards, Math Teacher - Granite School District Parent - Salt Lake, Canyons & Jordan school districts. Avid runner and ADHD sufferer/ survivor"
- 1328 Marci Ashcroft
 1329 Hannah Wallentine
 1330 Terrie Rauzon Please do not pass this. Kids in middle school need Health, PE, & Music.
 1331 Jani Myres
 1332 Shense Longhurst Please, please make sound decisions that support our Utah students' needs.
 1333 India McDougle
 1334 Wendy Western This decision is the stupidest thing I have EVER heard!!! What is happening??
 1335 Melinda Durrant
 1336 Alisha Wiser
 1337 Sidney Huntington
 1338 Jennifer Nudd
 1339 Korie Murray
 1340 Leslie Clawson
 1341 Angi Cummings
 1342 Madi Meenan
 1343 Rachana Patel
 1344 Jesska Jeppson
 1345 Carly Donahue
 1346 Rodney Butters
 1347 Emily Horne
 1348 Zack Beddoes
 1349 Christine Selander
 1350 Rebekah Wakefield
 1351 Mindy Nelsen Please listen to the citizens and those who actually know the value and importance of the arts. Also its absolute necessity in helping students problem solve, communicate and think critically. Don't sell students short of the education they deserve and the benefits of arts education found in countless studies.
 1352 Kathryn Hawes
 1353 Barbara Ferrin
 1354 Emma Mark
 1355 Jodi O'Farrell Keep these subjects in school!
 1356 Shana Skinner
 1357 Jennifer Martin
 1358 Corilee Austin
 1359 Amin Haq
 1360 Natalie Lewis
 1361 Hayley McKown
 1362 Rebecca Crandall
 1363 Amanda Asbell
 1364 Hadley Rampton
 1365 Barbara Christensen
 1366 Brittany Olsen
 1367 Jani Bell
 1368 Clark Nielsen
 1369 Erin Decker
 1370 Kelly Stevens
 1371 Lance Mecham Please don't take this away from our children they have enough distraction with modern technology that keeps them unfit. This
- generation must have this they MUST MUST Thank you
 1372 Delyse Downey
 1373 C Frandsen
 1374 Melissa Crandall
 1375 Kate Hammond
 1376 Kadie Stokes
 1377 Richard Hopkins, Jr
 1378 Desrae Smoot
 1379 Lisa States
 1380 Lisa Sandbakken
 1381 Christy Nielson Christy Nielson
 1382 Cheri Maughan
 1383 Teresa Crockett
 1384 Aubree Clark Education is about more than STEM!
 1385 Yolanda Jensen
 1386 Christine Silvester
 1387 Christina Ogrin
 1388 Lynn Kipatrick *Arts, Health and PE are vital aspects to being a well-rounded, well-educated person. Every person deserves to learn these subject areas, not just those who can afford enrichment programs.
 1389 Jeannine McDannel
 1390 Jessica Stoneman
 1391 Ann Hagensen
 1392 Kim Ashdown
 1393 Catherine McCann
 1394 Britney Romney
 1395 Paul Larsen My children have benefited from both a rigorous STEM curriculum and a rich arts curriculum. I have a son now employed in finance and a daughter now employed in the arts. Eliminating arts education deprives those whose talents lie in the arts from the full development of their abilities. It also robs our society of that which enriches us. I shudder to think about watching engineers try to perform Shakespeare. Why do we believe that those who provide arts in our society are any less professional or valuable than those who crunch numbers? Please reconsider your decision to remove the middle school credit requirements in health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy. This move will only make our children less competitive in an increasingly competitive world.
- 1396 Phillip Torres
 1397 Morgan Stubbs
 1398 Stephen Jones
 1399 Stacy Fisher As a graduate of Brigham Young University, in the arts, I find this unacceptable. Quit being so cheap with your education. These kids need and deserve the arts in their lives. What an embarrassment for a state that should be leading the way in education. Hold a hearing with your parents, find out if this is acceptable.
- 1400 Sean Newell
 1401 Ganty Lime
 1402 Sherri Dave
 1403 Patrick Kilboy
 1404 Brittney Thurman
 1405 Abe Kimball
 1406 Amy Mikkelsen
 1407 Sara Alyea
 1408 Serenity Kimball This should be a no brainer. All of the research points to the benefits of both the arts and physical activity for overall development.
 1409 Connie Walls
 1410 Sanja Decker Studies show that the arts are essential for learning. As a teacher I often integrated art and music in my study of literature, social studies, and even math.
 1411 Ak Avery
- 1412 Diantha Treadway We previously lived in an area of California where it was removed from the schools. The results were not positive. Please keep in the schools!!
 1413 Kristen Bayles
 1414 Amy Huppi
 1415 Meran King
 1416 Cassidy Sanderegger
 1417 Julene Withers
 1418 Amela Huppi
 1419 Tami Rowley I honestly cannot believe this!
 1420 Laura Klingenstein
 1421 Jamin Britt
 1422 Litan Dray
 1423 Robyn Palmer Steele It has been proven that music helps the brain process math. Music and the arts are vital to a civilized society. We need to provide for both in our schools.
 1424 Jennifer Sauter
 1425 Jeffrey Britt
 1426 Carly Maloney
 1427 Lauren Billings
 1428 Shannah Miller
 1429 Suzanne Wilson I have been teaching in the public schools for 26 years in 2 different states and I have seen the Arts reach students that otherwise would have been lost!!! Please don't take those enriching experiences away from those students that have a hard time excelling in other areas! The Arts enrich all students and bring out talents and heart!!!
 1430 Brooke Vlasch
 1431 Shaun Kremers
 1432 Jennifer Baucher
 1433 Brian Hartmann It is imperative for middle school students health and welfare to continue taking PE and understand about their health. Also through art, students learn to solve problems visually and creatively and to express themselves in a healthy way. All parents I know see value in all three subjects that were dropped as middle school requirements at the State School Board level. It is important to bring all three back!!
 1434 Ryan Rose
 1435 Julia Hall
 1436 Ashley Rauce As a physical education teacher and a graduate student at the University of Utah in special physical education, I will strongly advocate for PE and Adapted PE for my students, as it benefits their physical health, mental health, confidence, personal and social responsibility, and overall well-being throughout their lifetime.
 1437 Rose Branch
 1438 Sam Nielsen As a student who benefited from these programs in school I believe that they need to stay.
 1439 Audrey Drury
 1440 Jennifer Taurangeau
 1441 Michael O'Curran
 1442 Carolee Taggart
 1443 Amber Jaques
 1444 Anna Fowler
 1445 Tami Schwalbe It would be a disservice to middle school students to NOT educate the whole child! In the age of childhood obesity, mental health decline, and the increase in technology, taking physical education out of the required education is unheard of!
 1446 Shauna Vernon
 1447 Cory Sullivan
 1448 Doreen Nielson
 1449 Alan Groves
 1450 Hall Thornton

- 1830 which is the on-ramp to education for many kids who are hesitant (or even find it impossible) to access their education through traditional classroom modalities. Children who are emotionally disturbed, who are on the spectrum of autism, who are hyperactive and/or who do not speak English as a first language all benefit by learning through movement. For one thing, it builds confidence so that they can enter the classroom more motivated and clearer about how they are part of something larger than themselves. This is just one example of how arts education can be a critical player in the lives of our students. Thanks for hearing me out.
- 1831 Chayne Martin Suggest getting rid of football, baseball, soccer, etc. Those are far more expensive and dangerous to our children's health/future than anything listed.
- 1832 McKay Hall Middle school's already hell, don't take away one of the few good parts
- 1833 Sera Recanzone
- 1834 Alden Mikkelsen
- 1835 Tresa DeVore We need Physical Education!! It is proven that exercise HELPS the mind!! Be smart and KEEP Physical Education as a requirement for kids!
- 1836 Kate Prusak
- 1837 Susan Dueshmeier
- 1838 Meghan Horner I am a parent of two children in Utah's public education system. The ruling that eliminates credit from health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy in middle school seems incredibly, woefully shortsighted, knowing how children benefit from access to and full support of these programs throughout their education. Kudos to the board members who understand this and voted against this measure. I hope the board will reconsider this ruling.
- 1839 Emily Kerr
- 1840 Scott Brown
- 1841 Michael Hoover
- 1842 Shannon Caldwell
- 1843 Camlyn Vach
- 1844 Brian Young Please offer arts and physical education in our schools!
- 1845 Danny Stephens
- 1846 Tremayne Gulls Eliminating the listed curricula will eschew depth and humanity from the learning environment, preparing students to enter into a world which doesn't exist, one that doesn't hold things like personal care, aesthetics, and social well-being to a high standard. The educational system should try it's best to foster well-rounded, intelligent students, and I don't believe that can be achieved if we begin limiting our institutional outlets.
- 1847 Tyler Vach
- 1848 Matthew Johnson
- 1849 Nathan Campbell
- 1850 Michael Carnes "The idea of 'relevancy' often drives the curriculum of schools. At its worst, it turns public schools into vocational schools--focused on the skills of today and missing the future completely. The arts have shown themselves time and time again to increase the capacity for abstract thinking. As a musician with a long career in technology, I give music much more credit for my success in this field than anything related to computer training.
- 1851 Physical Education is also hugely important in setting the groundwork for a healthy life. A healthy, inventive mind depends on the foundation of a healthy body. Not everyone has to be a star athlete to benefit a little physical activity. These good habits can last a lifetime--and can extend that lifetime."
- 1852 Hillery John This change is very disheartening. Our school systems are struggling enough as it is, so why degrade the level of education even further? Our education system should be focusing on what's best for OUR CHILDREN and not what's best for ARBITRARY TEST SCORES. Please reverse this decision and restore the faith of many parents and citizens in the school system's ability to prioritize quality education for our posterity.
- 1853 Wendy Rabba
- 1854 Brendan MacKay
- 1855 Allie Patton
- 1856 Todd Egbert
- 1857 Rachel Frandson
- 1858 Karika Aposhian
- 1859 Suzanne Allred
- 1860 Emily Hase
- 1861 Cassidy Ricks
- 1862 Keri Hedman
- 1863 Heather Bennett
- 1864 Connie Johnson
- 1865 Jacob Johnson
- 1866 Kevin John Next time, try a public hearing first
- 1867 Rosalie Gurule
- 1868 Kyle Burton
- 1869 Leslie Bourque
- 1870 L. Clark
- 1871 Kathleen L. Lundy "Elimination of these classes affects the emotional and mental health of students, tomorrow's leaders. Do you care so little about the health of the most vulnerable, the future of the community and our leaders that you would strip them of these classes? You act like the Taliban or Ultra Orthodox/Fundamentalist leaders which I thought were only in other countries...STOP IT!!!"
- 1872 Whitney Koyle
- 1873 Sara Burton
- 1874 Brooke Huebner
- 1875 Hayley Kerkman
- 1876 Melissa Walton
- 1877 Kelsey Barton
- 1878 Vanessa Shannon
- 1879 Carolee Adams Education isn't just about regurgitating information. It's also about finding connections with different parts of the brain! Utilizing movement, creativity, music, theatre develops both sides of the brain, enhances and magnifies our ability to present, perform, develop problem solving skills through a variety of means. Not all students relate to basic skills. Love of music enriches students to read symbols created by music scores or to learn to read by listening to words in song. Passion for the arts create avenues for learning and connections between mathematical equations in written scores. Dissecting Education into basic skills will limit student's ability to explore and discover the creative side of the brain! We live in a world that creates and expands beyond the basics. Our educational system should reflect a creative approach!
- 1880 Patricia Serbousek
- 1881 Jane Hatter Arts are an integral part of a basic education. They stimulate connections between creative and logical thought processes as well as being important motivator for attendance and participation for potentially at risk youth. PE and health are also incredibly important for the development of well-rounded citizens. These requirements must not be eliminated from middle school programs here in Utah.
- 1882 Michelle Reese
- 1883 Cristina Lettig
- 1884 Josh Bone
- 1885 Angelica Blair
- 1886 Mary Ann Kirk
- 1887 Kat Fuller
- 1888 Robert Jones
- 1889 Rhonda Pearson
- 1890 Patricia Daly
- 1891 Alisha Upwall
- 1892 Paden Hansen
- 1893 Cameron Abaroa
- 1894 Zinna Eaton
- 1895 Lindsey Hazelwood Please don't allow our 13 and 14 year olds to NOT be introduced to mental health help and information on suicide, as in where to get help and to use the app SafeUT. Students need to learn risk behaviors and how to say no, how to use refusal skills in peer pressure situations. And how to stand up for themselves using I statements, they need to learn communication skills and nutritional information. And so much more as young people.
- 1896 Kate Whitbeck
- 1897 Chase Thomas
- 1898 Joanne Slotnik
- 1899 Beth Foley
- 1900 Rhonda Holiday
- 1901 Karen Traini
- 1902 Clark Bullen
- 1903 Courtney Marden Courtney Marden
- 1904 Jean Takuda Irwin
- 1905 Trevor Rasmussen
- 1906 Nathaniel Eschler Perhaps the declining cultural importance of arts education is contributing to the lack of cultural sensitivity, the need to share in joy with our neighbors, our children; to help, and to work together for a common goal. Some part of each of us must exist in the present moment; for each other.
- 1907 Rebecca Merald
- 1908 Brooker King
- 1909 Sandra Jacobs These courses are very important for helping to develop well-rounded young adult citizens.
- 1910 Tanner Bennett Too much emphasis has been placed on the STEM fields, and while yes, they are important, we can not forget the importance of our culture and our arts programs.
- 1911 Rachel Kimball
- 1912 Peter Nicholas
- 1913 Chelsey Stephens
- 1914 Michele Bennett
- 1915 Camille Hansen
- 1916 Jessica Young
- 1917 Nanka Kishi
- 1918 Barbara Burt Students need these subjects. Too much obesity going around here and students need to think outside the box, and these subjects help them.
- 1919 Anne Burbidge Ream
- 1920 Caesar Perfido The arts, health, and PE programs make a difference in student's lives. These programs should be necessary in every school program because they only benefit the student.
- 1921 Kaitlynn Wesley The arts are so important. It makes you think different and appreciate other things in life. I just graduated highschool, and if I didn't have those classes, I promise I would have ditched school if they take this away. I will be so ashamed of them that I am at a loss as to why the Utah State Board of Education would eliminate the Middle School credit requirement for health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy. Is the intent to send Utah's children back to the Dark Ages? Please tell me your reasoning. Thank you, Jim French.
- 1922 Jim French I am at a loss as to why the Utah State Board of Education would eliminate the Middle School credit requirement for health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy. Is the intent to send Utah's children back to the Dark Ages? Please tell me your reasoning. Thank you, Jim French.
- 1923 Ceri Steele
- 1924 Shelbie Brereton
- 1925 Anne Young
- 1926 Kate Hansen
- 1927 Lincoln Jacobs Lincoln D Jacobs
- 1928 Kenneth Woolley
- 1929 Jim Woolley
- 1930 Madison Hayes "Sometimes school is the only place kids will have exposure to these creative outlets or health education - eliminating such a requirement deprives them of this crucial exposure. As a huge choir nerd, I can personally speak of how singing in a choir as a middle schooler improved my confidence, gave me a creative outlet, and helped me realize the value of team work!"
- 1931 Donni Pay
- 1932 Melissa Steagall
- 1933 Rose Gurule
- 1934 Veronica Wagner
- 1935 Melinda Smith
- 1936 Patricia Mead Patricia Mead
- 1937 Aly Tingey
- 1938 Emilee Johnson
- 1939 Sydney Hansen
- 1940 Jennifer Farrell "We conserve only what we love, we love only what we know, we know only what we are taught." Let's not take away crucial elements of our children's education. A person can learn all the facts in the world but without an understanding of ourselves, our bodies, and our humanity through art, what is the point?
- 1941 Stephanie Gosdis I discovered my passion for music in Junior High when I joined my first choir. Because of this experience, I have gone on to a career in arts administration. I would not have gone down this path had I not had an educator who took the time to work with me and help develop those passions. Taking this away would create a huge disservice to students. In order for a well-rounded education to happen, there needs to be balance between academics and play. Whether that be the arts or physical education, that outlet to express themselves (or relieve their stress) needs to be there. Please reconsider this for the health of our students.
- 1942 Kendra Hauser As a middle school English and social studies teacher of 38 years in The Department of Defense Education Activity, I can tell you this is a colossal mistake. Many middle school students stay enthusiastic and involved in school because of the very classes you want to destroy. They are still young, very energetic, with short attention spans. They need the physical activity you are intent on denying them. It is clear the state school board is ignorant when it comes to valid educational practices.
- 1943 Krista Christenson
- 1944 Sydnee Myers Sydnee A Myers
- 1945 Mindy Gale
- 1946 Kimi Rohner
- 1947 Nikki Cunard Nikki Cunard

- 1947 Andrea Valverde
- 1948 Page White
- 1949 Jule Bahorn
- 1950 Malon Crosley Arts, Health, and PE are part of a well-balanced life! We need students to learn and start using these skills and developing habits in order to adequately handle the expectations of life
- 1951 Christian Wouden Physical Education gives students an opportunity to develop leadership skills and can influence moral development! Because it requires students to work together, it can build social skills and teamwork abilities
- 1952 robyn smith These are the subjects that students look forward to in their day I see more behavior problems and an increase in the drop out rates if this passes
- 1953 Katy Bennett
- 1954 Krishi Harries
- 1955 Hillary Bryan Hillary Bryan
- 1956 Melissa Rupp
- 1957 Amber Egbert
- 1958 Michele Simpson I think that our public school systems need art /PE/ health more than ever before. If these programs were removed from the schools the population who would and will suffer the most is the low- socio economic students whose parents cannot afford ballet, lacrosse and art enrichment. They do not generally have the opportunities to visit museums and have family vacations. When we educate children we educate the whole child. All children deserve the right to be taught and introduced to skills that will promote a healthy and educated life! For many students who do not pursue a higher education these classes really are their link to a fulfilling life. My own children have had wonderful opportunities to explore their personalities and try new things in various programs our school district has offered. School musicals, art shows, inter-mural competition's have been an critical piece to their overall well being and have inspired them to go to try cross country in high school or join clubs that promote the arts
- 1959 Demi Dubach
- 1960 Jana Varney
- 1961 Scott Richardson
- 1962 Erik Anderson
- 1963 Sarah Colby
- 1964 Alina Orska
- 1965 Errol Carlsen You are going the exact OPPOSITE direction you should be going. Arts should be taught more, not less.
- 1966 Michael Palumbo
- 1967 Lisa Jensen
- 1968 Brian Spittler
- 1969 david ostan
- 1970 Mary Jane Smith
- 1971 Andrew Neall Andrew Neall
- 1972 Richard Grosh
- 1973 Kyle Hall
- 1974 Mary Danzig These programs should not be optional. They are important for raising well rounded, healthy and happy children. Please reverse your decision!
- 1975 Dana Nadradze
- 1976 David Young
- 1977 Aimee Olson
- 1978 Thomas Arnett
- 1979 Sandefur Schmidt Sandefur Schmidt
- 1980 Laura Jean Pierce Jeanne Pierce
- 1981 Jennifer Tate
- 1982 Ashley Pace
- 1983 Kelsey Hall
- 1984 Kristine Clifford
- 1985 Dr. Daniel Drew
- 1986 Lynda Broadbent
- 1987 Jeffrey Smart
- 1988 Johann Jacobs Please reconsider this decision to eliminate arts education from schools. Arts education fosters bright, creative, and socially engaged students who will grow up to be our next leaders, parents, teachers, artists, and engineers. Their innovative ideas will shape industries, their creative thinking will find out-of-the-box solutions for a global society, and will provide students with a way to understand themselves, and have a sense of belonging."
- 1989 Cheryl Clark
- 1990 Darlyn Britt All kids need Physical Education! And art makes them think and be more well-rounded
- 1991 Robert Kramer
- 1992 Judene Shelley
- 1993 Courtney Dean
- 1994 Emily Kenshaw
- 1995 Aaron Vera
- 1996 Sharon Maddux I teach visual arts filmmaking, which allows for extensive and continuous project based learning. PBL teaches so much more than the content of the course providing the opportunity PBL allows students to learn about collaboration, themselves and others. While core content courses are offering some PBL opportunities now and then, it's the arts and PE that consistently implement it. Furthermore, why would we short cut creative opportunities in classes such as these. I have children who elected to take as many PE classes as they could. Had it not been a requirement, they would have ignored opportunities for music and art and never known how to use that part of their brain. Young children need to experience a myriad of educational opportunities in order to explore all potential avenues for finding a passion
- 1997 Madison Nash
- 1998 Kathleen Anderton
- 1999 Angie Petty
- 2000 Timothy Pearce
- 2001 Melodie Jacobsen Melodie Jacobsen
- 2002 Tracy Hackworth
- 2003 Mandy Truscatt
- 2004 Beth Campbell
- 2005 Marsha Parker
- 2006 Lynn Nicholas
- 2007 Maddison Shendan
- 2008 Daren Wagner Talk to the people, teachers, students and parents in your Utah schools to learn about how impactful these classes are on students lives
- 2009 McKenzie Jackson
- 2010 Callie Blamires
- 2011 Shyanne DeBaker
- 2012 Christopher Lebow I didn't get a voice in this and my answer is NO. I am signing because my children will be going to elementary school in the next few years and this is a travesty. It was art classes that helped me when I was struggling at 8 years old with a mental ill mother. It gave me an avenue of self express and explorations. Our education system is becoming heartless and lifeless. The flowering of a culture is expressed by its artistic achievement as well as its technological
- 2013 Catherine Anik
- 2014 Leah Mason
- 2015 Julia Harrison
- 2016 Kristin Beck
- 2017 Brecklyn Wiese
- 2018 Max Jones I understand the push for the core classes, but we need these children to gain a well-balanced education. Understanding how the arts and PE make them a more well rounded individual. They also need to have some down time. We are having more and more students with anxiety disorder, depression, and stress that is causing them to not want to attend school. Having classes that will give them down time is essential to their well being. We need to allow them an outlet at school to decompress from the rigors of the English, Math, Science, and Social Science courses
- 2019 Jame Cheney
- 2020 Alan Neall
- 2021 Jeremy Lopez
- 2022 Trudi Crosley
- 2023 Aimee Swenson
- 2024 Melinda Pitcher I truly appreciate all that the Utah State Board of Education does, but I was shocked to hear that this action had taken place. I think I need to be more aware of what is happening there in the future. This decision seems short sighted to me, and doesn't take into account that a complete education needs to be well rounded in order to benefit ALL of Utah's students, not just those who do well in their Core classes. I am a parent of 5 children who have gone through public school in Utah at every level over the past 30 years. I currently work in a Middle School as an Instructional Aide. I have seen from my own children's experience, as well as the youth I work with daily the benefits of these programs to develop a greater sense of self esteem, and a greater awareness of things in their world that they might not be exposed to in any other way. Several of my children were athletic, and some were also very artistic. When they were able to develop these talents more fully through their classes at school, it opened up other interests and even careers that they are currently pursuing as a means of a college degree, and a livelihood. One of my children attends BYU as a Graphic Arts major, and plays on their College Hockey Team. He first became interested in Art in Middle School and was able to gain greater self esteem in his PE classes as he was able to shine in those athletic outlets. He also learned more about Health and Nutrition that benefitted him being able to now play Sports at a Collegiate level. Another one of my sons is also very artistic, and it has brought him countless hours of enjoyment, to paint and draw, and again has increased his self esteem. His interest in art also began as he took art classes in Middle School, but also extended to learning to love music, which he also excelled at. He was a very good student, as was one of my daughters and both of them excelled in both art and music, as well as in their academics. I think having some of the arts and music classes, helped them to enjoy their Middle and High School experiences more, and even enhanced their mental capacities. The Health classes that each of them took, particularly my daughters who are now mothers, helped them have more opportunities to learn the "science" behind good eating habits, and has helped them to be more aware of how they cook for their own children, and of health and cleanliness. Another son played Football in Middle School and
- High School, and because he wasn't as good of a student as some of my other children, PE and sports were a way for him to shine and to feel successful. He now coaches High School Football because it was such a saving thing that kept him out of trouble during those years. Please don't remove these effective and (in my mind) successful programs from our Curriculum. Their value might be difficult to measure at times, but to those whom they have benefited, the rewards have had a meaningful and long lasting effect, and help to develop Young adults who grow up to be more well rounded, contributing adults in Society. Thanks for hearing my concerns, I hope this action can be reversed.
- 2025 Maggie Kasten
- 2026 Jeanne Botwick I am an educator in Science, but these areas are critical for students, especially at this young and impressionable age!
- 2027 Rachel White Health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy are fundamental elements of a well-rounded education
- 2028 Colton Pack
- 2029 MaryAnn Brown
- 2030 Jan Lear In the paper today we are told that the only businesses worth having are extractive or technological. And these at the expense of everything else. Now we are told the only subjects worth teaching are science, technology, engineering and math. I wonder if there is a connection? Without art education and appreciation we may (for a while) have food to eat but we will ultimately live in a physical and spiritual wasteland
- 2031 Heidi Gillmor
- 2032 Emma Koepsell
- 2033 David Hadden
- 2034 Raymond Van Mason
- 2035 Sam Fox Huntress
- 2036 Kelan Lao
- 2037 Ashton Boyle
- 2038 Beth Krensky
- 2039 Natasha Washington
- 2040 Stephanie Davis As a parent I know the value of a well rounded student. Many colleges/universities have moved to a holistic type of application. This means that the more experiences that students are exposed to in middle schools/high schools the better off they will be. Students need to learn and grow, to appreciate the beauty of art and music, understand and get excited about careers and be able to stay physically, emotionally and mentally healthy. We need to support our children in all aspects of education
- 2041 Gaylene Pfister
- 2042 Amanda Talei
- 2043 Carolyn Leika
- 2044 Shandra Benito
- 2045 Dianne Campbell
- 2046 Hilary McDanel
- 2047 Zach Tavernier
- 2048 Kat Kellermeyer
- 2049 Stacey Nelson Absolutely! As a CTE teacher I see the daily power of my classes. This isn't about "life skills". It's about preparing a strong generation for careers, opportunity and success. It is a shame to see education going this way.
- 2050 Kathy Larabee
- 2051 Julie Hild
- 2052 Janet Ellison
- 2053 Monica Martinez
- 2054 Stephanie Schott
- 2055 Henry Beal

2056. Andrea Valverde
2057. Paige White
2058. Julie Balhorn
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2160. Julie Hild
2161. Janet Ellison
2162. Monica Martinez
2163. Stephanie Schott
2164. Henry Beal

- 2165 Charlene Adams
 2166 Rachel Edwards
 2167 Laurie Hofmann
 2168 Helen Mulder Let's never forget the arts
 2169 Nanette Ahlstrom NANETTE AHLSTROM
 2170 Andrea Jacobs
 2171 Madison Wirhlin As a physical educator, I know first hand how essential PE is for students!
 2172 Patricia Painter really? with the obesity epidemic, you want to eliminate PE? with kids buried in their phones, you want to eliminate art? with kids being sexually active, you want to eliminate health ed? and this is a STATE board of EDUCATION? amazingly shortsighted and ignorant
 2173 Robert Lindsley Eliminating arts, health and PE requirements is counterproductive to the success and well-being of every student in middle school
 2174 Lisa Malmstrom
 2175 Shawn Rastler
 2176 Richard Laughlin Richard L. Laughlin
 2177 Janet Sheriff
 2178 David Martin David Martin
 2179 Jeffrey Haverkos
 2180 Sydney Reed Sometimes these areas are the only places kids excel. It is imperative to develop creative skills in this world today
 2181 Jacob Kilby
 2182 Mark Holland As a Visual Arts and Foreign Language teacher, Proposed Rule R277.700 infuriates me. I tell every single one of my students how important their Math, Science and Language Arts classes are, but so are all the others. We need to offer our students and children a well rounded education! At a time when students need to learn a love of learning don't restrict them to thinking that school is about only the STEM subjects. That will not instill in them the passion to learn, they need more
 2183 Tadd Pyne
 2184 Andrew Schenk
 2185 Andrew Watson Andrew Barrett Watson
 2186 Shell Davis
 2187 Eliza Rhoades
 2188 Eric Strahacker
 2189 Tia Tsigler
 2190 Marcee Belton
 2191 Savannah Despain
 2192 Lorrie Creamer I am signing as a grandmother of a sixth grader at Uintah Elementary
 2193 Megan Butler
 2194 Georga Fairbanks I can't believe the Board of Education is even considering this option. This is what has made Utah so successful. And this is what is missing in our country. The arts, what makes us human. Please do not do this. Children need to be exposed to the arts even if it seems mandatory at times. Studies point to the fact that music develops the brains of children. You make this optional and it will kill the arts in our schools. Please reconsider and do not do this
 2195 Julia Nichols
 2196 Sara Struths
 2197 Jacob Jewkes
 2198 Amberlee Andrus
 2199 Nancy Becker Nancy Becker
 2200 Rebecca Sawyer
 2201 Marc Faulks
 2202 Tyler Jones
 2203 Jake Hadley
 2204 Enko Lyon To take out the arts and PE during the time in a child's life while they are trying to figure out who they are is inhuman. To take it out of a required course or area of study takes funding away from an already scarcely funded program
 2205 Heather Mills Wouldn't be who I am today without orchestra and choir. Please preserve this. Kids need the arts. The arts are about humanity--if we take our humanity out of our schools, and we leave kids with no way to express and process and make sense of all the other things they are learning--from the tragedies in their history classes and heartbreaking currents, etc.
 2206 Steven Walters
 2207 George Brown
 2208 Rebecca Carol Biddle I have been involved in the arts in Utah since 1981 as an artist, professional arts administrator, fundraiser, and educator, and have seen first hand how the arts shape children to become successful, productive, thoughtful, analytical, and creative adults. Art has been PROVEN, through comprehensive research as well as through daily teacher and parent observation, to be a motivator for children, inspiring them to stay in school and to succeed in all areas of study. One need only look at the success of the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program to see that the arts have helped all children, and that they have been an integral part of helping children at risk succeed in school. The arts are not "optional." They are essential to our ability to make sense of the world and our place in it. Through the arts, children learn to listen and to ask questions, to be observant and to be patient, to explore math and science, to work collaboratively, to analyze problems and come up with creative solutions, to take risks, to respect themselves and others, to comprehend the lessons of history. The arts are needed by children (and adults!) at every phase of their lives, including and perhaps especially during the pre-teen and early teen years. Please do not eliminate this essential teaching tool from schools.
 2209
 2210 I also urge you to support health and PE classes for all grades. The value of nutrition, good health habits, and exercise must be taught from a young age to build life long habits that help people avoid obesity, substance abuse, high medical costs, lost productivity, and shorter lifespans.
 2211
 2212 The role of schools should be to do MORE than just train children to be "future workers." Schools must train children to become articulate and aware citizens, voters, communicators, thinkers, creators, designers, builders and entrepreneurs. Children who have a solid foundation in the arts, combined with a commitment to healthy life choice will someday contribute to the vitality and economic growth of our State.
 2213 Rita Wright As an arts professional, working with thousands of Utah middle school children each year, I realize the importance of arts in their critical thinking skills, innovative capacities and social well being by having arts opportunities in the Middle School curriculum. Please reverse the August 4th decision for our children and for the important role the arts play across disciplines and economic sectors. Our primary contributions in all fields are enhanced by general ingenuity and innovation developed through arts opportunities. "Art Works!"
 2214 Carol Wilkinson Besides physiological benefits of physical education, the cognitive benefit should also be a major focus.
 2215 Tiffany Delgado
 2216 Monique Mandragon
 2217 Morgan Hadley
 2218 Gina Creeze
 2219 Aaron Hunter
 2220 Riley Baxter
 2221 Jason Foulks
 2222 June Jelm
 2223 Jason Dunn Nothing baffles me more than educated people doing uneducated things. This Art Teacher prays for a return to the good old days when the arts were so valued that they were required for the betterment of student, and society overall.
 2224 Katrina Young
 2225 Jeremy Johnson With all the problems with diabetes, obesity, lack of exercise, etc. we shouldn't be cutting any health and PE. In fact we should offer more of it. Also don't cut any of the arts out!
 2226 Whitney Zordan
 2227 marsha pilgeram
 2228 Esther Davis
 2229 Hayley Anderson Hayley Blythe Anderson
 2230 Michelle Roskelley Michelle Roskelley
 2231 Cynthia Haverkost
 2232 Vanessa Ballam Ballam Vanessa Ballam
 2233 Sydney Vogel Sydney Vogel
 2234 Derek Dyer
 2235 Ashley Baum
 2236 Georga Wing
 2237 Manuel Delgado
 2238 Stephani Boud
 2239 Nate Hardy
 2240 Joyden Sutton These subjects teach values that teach farther than the realm of art, health, and physical fitness. There is also a dire need to increase the physical well being of the nation, and it is best started at a young age.
 2241 Robert Fudge The arts are not optional.
 2242 Patrice West
 2243 Brandon Ellis
 2244 Katherine Supiano Arts and Physical Education are essential parts of a quality education.
 2245 Nathaniel Shaw
 2246 Kathryn Lindquist
 2247 Jann Haworth We need creative problem solvers more than at any time in our history. The very planet that we stand on is at stake. The arts are the foundation of thinking beyond just giving the correct, expected, traditional answer to a problem. Arts programming should be expanded not curtailed.
 2248 Raquel Fuller
 2249 Hannah Brooks
 2250 David Duggar
 2251 Julie Pitcher
 2252 Cynthia Horrocks
 2253 Liz Jeffrey
 2254 Krystalee Archibald Krystalee Archibald
 2255 Greg Nybo
 2256 Nicole Raskelley
 2257 Heidi Heil The Arts and Physical activity help to develop the brain. This development aids learning in the other curriculum areas. It is a vital part of education.
 2258 Isabella Andries
 2259 Emily Crump
 2260 Jana Maw
 2261 Diane Stewart We need to stop this legislation! The Arts are an integral part of education and growth. Students need arts to be better problem solvers and better engaged citizens! Art speaks volumes in ways other disciplines cannot!
 2262 Preston Echers
 2263 Peter Hansen
 2264 Harley Moody
 2265 Jordan Cox
 2266 Nik Ferrari
 2267 Lola Reyes
 2268 Mikele Giles
 2269 Hunter Klein
 2270 Heidi Checkleth Those Made me who I am today along with my whole generation. I loved Art, PE and Health. It taught me creativity and showed me I had skills I didn't realize I had until taking those courses. Taking those away will definitely make the future generations suffer, not progress, learn nor grow.
 2271 Jeff Stock
 2272 Jeff Stock
 2273 Ashley Anderson As a teacher of young children this would be very very detrimental to any and all who will attend Utah schools with no arts programs they develop a completely different part of the brain and allow for creativity to flourish.
 2274 Sabra Schlyter Sabra Schlyter
 2275 Marissa Day
 2276 Emmalee Winter
 2277 Marinda Cummings
 2278 Cassandra Belliston
 2279 Amber Utterback
 2280 Lorraine Wallace Arts is essential in the MS/JHS curriculum. Otherwise people may never experience the arts. Please do not drop it!
 2281 Travis Braun RIDICULOUS!!!
 2282 Katie Hemingway
 2283 Ja'Neil Mathews
 2284 Brittany Allred
 2285 Liberty Blake
 2286 Amanda Longwell
 2287 Samantha Fry
 2288 Larry Phelps
 2289 Marybeth Powell
 2290 Jeannette Zobel Any society that excels encourages and honors the arts and being physically active.
 2291 Stephen Allen
 2292 Mary Green
 2293 Kaylyn Baldwin
 2294 Taulana Sullivan
 2295 Sophie McCatter
 2296 J&B Anderle
 2297 Jamie LaFosse
 2298 Sydney Dahl
 2299 Anne Milliken
 2300 Mark Johnson Can you name anyone alive that does not benefit and receive tremendous blessings from the arts? It would be absurdly shortsighted and unwise to get rid of this requirement in our schools. Our prosperity as a culture and society diminishes without exposure to the arts and their attendant riches.
 2301 Max Matzen I suppose that what we are looking to turn out kids into are morbidly obese mathematicians.
 2302 Britnee Bartlett
 2303 Kira Inman
 2304 Ann Paore While many students will be exposed to the arts at home and will voluntarily participate in physical activities after school and through their church, that isn't true of all or even most in this computerized era.

- Please retain the credit for these vital activities and interests that matter so much throughout a lifetime. A strong foundation removes the trepidation that can arise from a lack of early and easy familiarity in these areas. Fear of a subject is like a lock on the door of a museum, library or gym. Lifetime health and learning starts in middle school
- 2305 Reyna Woods
- 2306 Chris Kahanevas
- 2307 Diane Jaggi Please keep art, health and PE in schools!
- 2308 Isabel Krebs
- 2309 Barbara DeSoto What is the point of anything if we don't have physical health and culture? We are not here to become robots, and even if we were like robots, we'll soon be replaced by robots anyway. We are here to be human. I am appalled that Utah doesn't fund these necessary parts of school curriculum. Studies have shown that in the next 50 years as workers are replaced with automation, creativity and certain manual dexterity will be the only advantage American workers will have to make them marketable in the new economy. You are asking an enormous disservice to students to deny them PE and music training, not just as whole humans, but as future workers.
- 2310 McKenna Kirby
- 2311 Beverley Cooper
- 2312 Stephen Solen
- 2313 Thomas Priest In an age when we need to be concerned about civility and public health, it is essential that we have arts and health education. Unless students are exposed to these, they cannot make an intelligent choice about deciding these quality of life issues. In an age when we desperately need creative thinkers, it makes no sense to remove arts education from the curriculum.
- 2314 Mary Anne Peterson
- 2315 Cecelia Fennell Cecelia M Fennell
- 2316 Miriah Elliott
- 2317 haley garbett
- 2318 Lyndi Perry
- 2319 Jeanie Christensen We enjoy attending Jr High plays. America is over weight already. Children won't be getting any exercise. Parents aren't teaching about the body.
2320. Stephanie Maxwell
2321. Jesus Johnson Music is an absolute necessity in everyone's life. Especially that of young children who are figuring out who they are. Music is very influential and a large part of our culture as human beings. While I understand that we are not getting rid of the musical program all together, having a class requirement for middle school children could change their life. It changed mine. Teachers I have had in musical classes have had a large impact of who I am now and showed me lessons beyond the classroom. Music is an incredible thing that changes people for the better. I would just hate to see it ignored by many who have never had the chance to see the magic music could bring. Even considering music programs to not be important is wrong.
2322. Deborah Peterson I was shocked to hear this. The arts are a vital part of any society. There has to be time to reconsider!
2323. Lacy Faulks
2324. Marla Ihler
2325. Julie Ann Barrus
2326. Kirsti Raleigh
2327. Janice Thompson
2328. Teresa Larsen
2329. Alisa Brouseu
2330. Hillary Place
2331. Jeff Quinton Jeff Quinton
2332. Ken Wright
2333. Drew Ehrigott Arts are vital to a balanced education
2334. Amberlie Phillips Amberlie Phillips
2335. Emily Gibson
2336. Sommer Baisch
2337. Jane Harrison Jane Harrison
2338. Staci Zilles-Nelson
2339. Larrin Hansen
2340. Koedy Jermain
2341. Erik Hood
2342. Colette Herrick Colette Herrick
2343. Jean Fullmer "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."-Mahatma Gandhi
2344. So many of our kids are not active, do not learn how to be healthy and don't have opportunities for dance or music. Please do not take this away from the core! Taking this away may give charter schools more leverage to teach our students less, but this is important learning for all middle school aged students!
2345. Sandra S Sowerby
2346. Margaret Smith
2347. Taresa Higbee
2348. Murray Arts Advisory Board
2349. Marci Hall
2350. Robyn Earl
2351. Wendy Richhart
2352. Sarah Murphy Sarah Murphy
2353. Windy Devroom
2354. Bradon Fennell
2355. Lydia Gravis
2356. Madison Giles
2357. Cassandra Crandall
2358. Joseph Otterstrom
2359. Cindy Lloyd Eliminating these requirements is disastrous. I think the only benefactor in this is the Charter school system. Please use your heads! Where will you house the thousands of students that choose not to take those courses? Many of those classes only count as 2/3 of a student - that's why there are huge numbers in PE and Music. Consider the physical facilities that will have to be provided, not to mention additional teachers, who will pay for this????? I believe you are just hoping the districts take the heat in keeping the requirements, but the charter schools will benefit by not having to provide those services. Once again the minority voice is heard above the majority (or should I say special interest voice?) In addition - kids are HUGE and LAZY. They get little to no physical activity outside of school. Research has proven that physical activity during the school day improves learning and TEST SCORES! Read the research! Music and the arts are of equal value. Public education is the great equalizer of opportunity for ALL, not just those who are academically gifted. There are many students who succeed in varied areas. School should be a time to expose students to many things so they can decide where their talent lies and what their true potential is.
2360. Jacob Spjute
2361. Sara Horne
2362. Brooklynn Dyer
2363. Bill Egelund
2364. Madison Cilluffo
2365. Diana Hatch
2366. Kira Medeiros
2367. Richard Kimball
2368. Shayli Gaurley
2369. Jason Hadlock
2370. Kiista Reader Training the body is just as important as training the mind. Please keep physical education in the schools.
2371. Anthony Frenzel Anthony Frenzel
2372. Brendon Hatch
2373. Becky Hunsaker
2374. Hannah Caldwell All children have different abilities. The Arts bring culture and talent that will be lost.
2375. Laurisa Cope
2376. Freddy Wang
2377. Paul Ward Paul Keller Ward
2378. Sadie Larsen
2379. Cameron Carter
2380. Laurel Cannon Alder
2381. Aaron Rice
2382. Daren Ward
2383. Scott Mordach
2384. AdreAnn Sundrud AdreAnn SUNDRIJ
2385. Austin Chadwick As someone who has been a beneficiary of the arts and physical programs in the middle schools of Utah, this decision will only lead to one thing: the decreasing or elimination completely of the need for the arts and physical education for society. Please reconsider this drastic change. This is detrimental to the education of our children.
2386. Camille Tew
2387. Kimberly Payer Thank you for considering keeping these important subjects in the required curriculum.
2388. Amelita Wilcox
2389. Lexy Jacobs
2390. Lisa Jacobs
2391. Sarah Probasco
2392. Randall Wellbaum
2393. Paige Briggs
2394. Jana Calvin
2395. Lucas Charon
2396. Tami Flygare Tami Flygare
2397. Nicole cheleste Caldwell
2398. Katrina Harris
2399. Brad Davis
2400. Benjamin Krutsh
2401. Laura Boardman I couldn't agree with the above more, arts also teach create though in business that keep our economic base a live to fund our children future.
2402. Keisha Lloyd
2403. Madeline Watterson
2404. Courtney Beesley
2405. Cody Walker
2406. Katarina Knight
2407. Rayna Bell Rayna Bell
2408. Jessica Ivie
2409. Sonja Reynolds
2410. Stacey Benson
2411. Melissa Chertudi
2412. Amber Avery This is essential for education and should not be removed!
2413. Elizabeth Dean
2414. Danielle Casas
2415. Susan Gustafson Scott Gustafson
2416. Victoria Johnson
2417. Alex Post
2418. Lindsay Jensen
2419. Aimee Snow Please do not remove the arts programs from the school. Without the arts so many kids would feel worthless. As a young student I struggled with school but knew I had a place in the arts programs which kept me motivated throughout high school and pushed me to graduate. This would be a horrible mistake!
2420. Jessica Totten
2421. Alandra Betancourt
2422. Gayla Allen
2423. Jonathan Bates
2424. Jared Espinuro
2425. Charles Teuscher
2426. Erin Wright
2427. Brian Rambaldi
2428. Anne Record
2429. Macall Quinn
2430. Dakota DeWaal
2431. Shawna Rees
2432. Naomi Watkins
2433. Ja'Noe Wilson The arts are an integral part of humanity and increases the quality of life.
2434. Pamela Spitzer
2435. Mikaylee Lutz
2436. Katy Dalley
2437. Emily Soderberg
2438. Missy Rowe I work with children who have special needs. Often times art and movement are the only ways to get them interested in what we are learning. It gives them motor skills practice, chances to make choices, follow directions, explore colors, shapes, fast/ slow etc.
2439. Ashton Harman
2440. Stacy Bartholomew
2441. Cindy Gullbranson
2442. Emily Wood
2443. Devyn Lambert
2444. Karley Garrett
2445. Cassandra Karchner
2446. Kristen Newman "Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence."
- 2447.
2448. - Joseph M. Calahan, Director of Cooperative Communications, Xerox Corporation
- 2449.
2450. Please don't turn our children into a generation of sedentary, non-thinkers. This solidifies, in one foul swoop, our national laughingstock status. The state leaders brag about surpluses and how well run our state is, yet you continue to allow them to spend NOTHING on education STOP
2451. Abbigayle Welch
2452. Kaylynn Gray
2453. kathy peterson We MUST NOT discontinue PE and Art in Middle School because Art provides children the avenue of self expression like no other academic program. Middle Schoolers are struggling to figure out who they are and how they fit into their community. PE provides the opportunity to MOVE. Too much time is spent with their technology apparatuses and not enough time is spent moving. In this age of increased obesity in children, it is paramount that we continue to encourage children to MOVE. Do not discontinue these programs.
2454. Suzanne Nielsen
2455. mike campos
2456. Cindy Christensen
2457. Samuel Meredith
2458. Caitlin Black
2459. Rachel Perkins
2460. Krista Snow
2461. Marisa Channell
2462. Steven Klemz
2463. Joyce Howell Joyce Howell
2464. Marcia Harris
2465. Heather McNabb
2466. Tiffany Quinn These courses help develop the student both physically and intellectually. It will prepare them best for what real life is like. They're the rising generation and we need innovative and creative people running it.

- 2467 Patricis Johnson
- 2468 Christine Galey Christine Galey
- 2469 Andi Jorgensen Education should be for the whole person. Experience with every aspect of learning should be relevant for a human being at every age, especially in the vulnerable pre-teen and teenage years. Please don't rob these young people of a full education. Include the arts, health, and PE
- 2470 Kimberle Nicoll
- 2471 Allison Trutzel I was fortunate to participate both in school and district symphonies. It enriched my educational experience and provided opportunities I would not have otherwise had. Because of the cost of private lessons, many families only have school programs to rely on for arts education. Music and the arts should not only be for the elite. Our society is better off when we improve the individual!
- 2472 PJ Smalley What else are we going to do with the kids for eight hours a day? If you don't support the subject areas with official CORE status, students and parents won't take the classes as seriously and will not get as much out of them.
- 2473 Cynthia Clark
- 2474 Jaan Brinton For the sake of our students, please reverse the policy.
- 2475 Jessica Greenberg Jessica Greenberg
- 2476 Vicky Johnson Please keep music and all cultural arts in the schools. It is so important for students' brains!!!
- 2477 DanaLynn Arnold
- 2478 Marilyn Paine This shows a total lack of insight by the Board of Education into education and how children learn. A terrible decision.
- 2479 Stefan Larson
- 2480 Hattie Huybregts
- 2481 Tammy Hutchings
- 2482 Blare Vas
- 2483 Sharon Holmstrom Sharon Holmstrom
- 2484 Anna Ward
- 2485 Victoria Petric-Esther A free and appropriate education means providing for the whole student! Eliminating PE and Arts credits is shortsighted and predicated on fallacious ideas of human lifespan development.
- 2486 Peritheno Brown
- 2487 Christ Leman
- 2488 Kara Mugleston
- 2489 Robert Harris The arts, PE and Health are so important. They help shape the future.
- 2490 Lynna Kendall Please reconsider the ramifications of this decision and the lives it will impact personally. I know of many students that stayed in school, graduated and went on to college because of their music classes. I think of the one student that contemplated suicide, but decided to live because of his interest in music.
- 2491 Joyce Ellis
- 2492 Cassidy Waska
- 2493 Marshall Bellan
- 2494 Carol Bischoff CAROL BISCHOFF
- 2495 Noelle Adams Noelle C Adams
- 2496 Pamela Roberts
- 2497 Andrew Thomas
- 2498 Peter Leman
- 2499 Janae Letterman Making these classes non-required will have devastating consequences. I'm sure we can't even imagine!
- 2500 Amanda Caraway
- 2501 Eric Burton
- 2502 Margaret Smith Please retain the requirements for PE, health and the arts for middle school students. They are critical to provide valuable information and a well-rounded education. Kids sit in front of computers, and phones and tv for hours every day and physical activity is critical. Music and arts are important to the development of the creative parts of the brain and make for happier children. Please rethink this unfortunate decision.
- 2503 Julie Cranmer
- 2504 Kayci Muirbrock Life is most effective when it is balanced. Children need to learn to tap into all potentials and powers, including physical activity. Let's not start a trend in health that we cannot reverse.
- 2505 Rachel Hopkins
- 2506 Thomas Pratt
- 2507 Michele Bowden
- 2508 Heather Thaxton
- 2509 Elizabeth Mangus
- 2510 Beth Wilson
- 2511 Patricia Rogers
- 2512 Jonathan Robinson
- 2513 Rose Powell
- 2514 Fred Adams
- 2515 Brianna Palmer
- 2516 Michelle Eberly
- 2517 Becky Gesteland
- 2518 Madonne Miner
- 2519 Sharla Crocraft
- 2520 Ashley Moss
- 2521 McCalle Vera
- 2522 Brian Gibson
- 2523 Miriam Bowen
- 2524 Sheri Ruvalcoba
- 2525 Lindsay Roper Students need PE, health, and arts programs in school!
- 2526 Helen Williams
- 2527 Shaune Cliff
- 2528 Brenda Davis
- 2529 Aubrey Knighton
- 2530 Sue Wilson How about improving these programs instead of eliminating them?
- 2531 For many children, school is the only place they get physical activity during the day. Why not improve the gym time and make it more about healthy lifestyle through proper food choices and physical activity!!
- 2532 Randi Smith
- 2533 Elizabeth Neff Mikolash
- 2534 Sydney Burgess
- 2535 R. Scott Phillips
- 2536 Angela Franco Anderson
- 2537 Kayla Eddington
- 2538 David Fox
- 2539 Lance Major
- 2540 Jacqueline Benseler
- 2541 Merissa Alldredge
- 2542 Katelyn Lau
- 2543 Michelle Parker I would really hate to see P.E. Arts and other elective type classes be taken away as these classes are where some students really shine. They still are academically relative to becoming educated. I have seen students who struggle academically begin to soar once we integrated movement into the learning process.
- 2544 Halimah Beus
- 2545 Cheri Henderson
- 2546 Brian Lakes
- 2547 Britanie Parry
- 2548 Darren Thurgood The arts, PE and health give students explorational avenues and chances to develop talents that they would not otherwise have. Don't take art, PE, and health requirements out of schools because that is one step closer to removing them altogether.
- 2549 Cabria Jacobsen
- 2550 Nicole Patty As a health educator, I can tell you first hand how much students not only WANT health (they just may not know it yet), but they NEED it. They need a place where they feel safe asking questions. Not all kids are comfortable talking to a parent and if you take away the requirement, many will miss out on crucial LIFE skills being taught to help prepare them for the real world. We talk about preparing these students to be successful adults, but part of being a successful adult is being someone who is well rounded (the arts), has some form of physical activity (PE), and knows how to live a healthy lifestyle (Health). By taking this requirement away, we're saying the items taught in these classes don't matter.
- 2551 Michelle Duckett Music classes during the day helped me focus in my math and science classes. Also, health and PE classes are essential to teaching kids healthy habits.
- 2552 Andrew Taylor
- 2553 Ashley Shunney
- 2554 Janine Tabot I am signing to reinstate health and PE credit requirements. The other classes are individually based on post-graduation plans.
- 2555 Aaron Jones
- 2556 Esther Oluwalana
- 2557 Jessa Brack
- 2558 Martina Nes
- 2559 Dylan Lawler
- 2560 Brent Davis
- 2561 Launa Nelson
- 2562 Lorin Chun
- 2563 Mark Owens
- 2564 Ingrid Balz
- 2565 Miles Borok
- 2566 Loren Brewer I want my kids and others to explore the arts and be physical. It will make them better students and happier people.
- 2567 Alexander Walton
- 2568 Desi Lawrence
- 2569 Amanda Finlayson
- 2570 Amy Stewart
- 2571 Haley Rich
- 2572 Matthew Sorenson
- 2573 Kaytelyn Winston
- 2574 Sarah North
- 2575 Jordan Simmons
- 2576 Jan Beckstrom
- 2577 Roma Goldhardt
- 2578 Carlynn Valovick Moore
- 2579 Kimberlee Williams
- 2580 Emily Bourne
- 2581 Keltan Mock I am a direct beneficiary of public school music programs, having started the string bass in the 4th grade and continued through high school (Logan City School District, Logan, Utah). I then went on to pursue a dual degree in music (BA) and molecular biology (BS), and am currently enrolled in a dual MD/Master's program at UC Irvine School of Medicine in Irvine, CA. Without music in my life, I would never have been able to make the unique connections that I did, nor would I have become the person that I am today. In my view, music and the arts are absolutely essential not only to a balanced education, but also improved mental health among students. Music and the arts are a place where we are allowed to think in new ways and build extremely unique neural connections. Taking this opportunity away from students, especially at the vulnerable middle school ages, should be avoided at all costs. Thank you for taking my voice, and the voices of thousands of grateful students throughout Utah, into consideration!
- 2582 Heidi Calder
- 2583 Emily Eastman
- 2584 Coney Zealley
- 2585 Makie Wall
- 2586 Kelli Redding
- 2587 Gwen Spencer Bring it back!!!
- 2588 Allison Klippel
- 2589 Shauna Christensen
- 2590 Emma Morgan
- 2591 Heidi Matthews
- 2592 Kerri Petersen
- 2593 Misty Shupe
- 2594 Krystal Funk Taking art classes, like choir and theatre, helped shape me into the confident person and teacher I am today.
- 2595 Marianne Krazcek
- 2596 Katherine Dayton-Kistler I am retired and swiftly moving into old age. We need all the talented, hard working, bright citizens we can educate. To deprive students of the opportunities to experience art, music, PE, literature is to deprive them of understanding people in my situation as well as to understand themselves. We can not exist as a country without educated, thinking people.
- 2597 Carolyn Ebert
- 2598 Karen Thomas
- 2599 Jennifer James
- 2600 Leslie Mellinger
- 2601 Christopher Martin The Arts provide whole-brain activity and enhance achievement in all areas of Education. In a geographic area such as Utah, where many kids are affected by long winters and mood swings associated with anxiety and depression, students need the natural, chemical endorphins that are created from physical exercise and the aesthetic arts experience. They need to understand their bodies and how these chemicals work. They need to know how certain substances and foods affect their bodies. Furthermore, participation and achievement in the arts and fine arts has been shown time and again to increase psychological and physical health. "(S)ome of the new technologies that are now available, for example non-invasive brain mapping, are being used very excitingly and instructively, and we are now much closer to a precise understanding of what happens in the brain when someone has an aesthetic experience, and what the psychosomatic links may be that make these experiences physiologically beneficial" (From "What Experts Think," Restoring the Balance, the Effect of Arts Participation on Well-Being and Health, by Paul Devlin, p. 13, http://www.artsforhealth.org/resources/VAE_Restoring_the_Balance.pdf) What tools could be more important to place in a young person's hands to enable them to be more successful, to have greater feelings of self-efficacy and make a positive difference in society? Are we raising robots or innovators? These subjects--The Arts, Health, and Physical Exercise--provide the cognitive substance for understanding who we are as human beings. Take these away and you have taken life from the body, freedom from the spirit, and relationships from society. Restore these and you infuse vitality to all.

2602. Bronte Forsgren
2603. Joan Hanson
2604. Jyl Sorenson
2605. Dorothy C. Little Dorothy C. Little
2606. Brenda Johnson Brenda Johnson
2607. Sarah Tveit
2608. Emily Donaldson
2609. Jami Van Huss
2610. Edna Allphin
2611. Shanna Wheeler
2612. Katherine Davis
2613. Denise Truckler
2614. Gilman Parice
2615. Jan Bridges I can't believe dropping these requirements is even being considered
2616. Natalie Cole
2617. Diane Gardner
2618. Amelia DeGraffenried
2619. Sarah Vause
2620. Pauline Smith
2621. Krista Burrows
2622. Becky Daniels
2623. Chelsea Olige
2624. Amelia Parkin
2625. Sarah Larson
2626. Lori Haglund
2627. Belinda Nickle
2628. Jennifer Allen
2629. Teresa Oldham Please don't do our children the disservice of taking arts away. We need this more than ever
2630. Clarissa Andersen
2631. Shelly Mathie Shelly Mathie - children need physical exercise now more than ever! Please do not eliminate this.
2632. Melissa Ahwood
2633. Kari Butler
2634. John Anderson
2635. Tracey Price Tracey Price
2636. Maurena Grassman
2637. Harrison van Base Arts, PE, and Health all have a place in school. Make it work.
2638. Mindy Timothy Don't downplay the importance of these topics in Middle School. This is where the students get exposed to these awesome topics. When budgets are cut, these will be the first to go if they are not required! DO IT FOR THE KIDS!!!
2639. Jacob Newman
2640. Carly Anderson
2641. Melody Dickson I cannot believe these still aren't required! What ever happened to a well rounded education?
2642. Emily Taylor
2643. Ashley Patterson
2644. Ronald Huber Ronald Huber
2645. Aimee Pardo
2646. Jennifer Purdy Some students will never try an art or music class unless it is required. That's when they find out they love music or art, are good at it, and it becomes their passion. Don't let students miss out on trying it out.
2647. Rachael Morgan
2648. Lanay Page
2649. Malia Brady
2650. Carla Anderson
2651. Shannon Graff
2652. Madelyn Duncan
2653. Kaitlyn Krabbe
2654. Jessica Evans
2655. Julie Hillman
2656. Susan KLinker Arts, Health, PE, College and Career Readiness, World Languages, and digital literacy all develop skill sets and understanding that affect quality of life. We care that we raise young people in our community with a sense of balance and inspiration toward achievement in many aspects of their lives. Middle School is a critical formative time for young people. They need to engage and relate to one another in many different ways in order to develop into well rounded, productive members of society. Please reverse your reverse your August 4th decision to remove the Middle School credit requirement for health, arts, physical education, college and career awareness, world languages, and digital literacy.
2657. Nathan Powell
2658. Terry Marasco
2659. Camille Myers
2660. Ileen Chris
2661. Julia Cooper
2662. Donald W Sorenson
2663. Meghan McDonald
2664. Kayla DeCoursey
2665. Erin Crowe
2666. Chelsey Hone
2667. Caleb Peterson
2668. Eric Dubson
2669. Jennifer Wayas
2670. Janet Griffin There is scientific fact that shows children who have music in their lives, score higher on reading and math scores. Why would you downplay music?
2671. Tatiana Misca I was never the smartest kid in school or the fastest so having the arts helped me build confidence, gave me courage and showed me how to keep trying until you get it right. If I didn't have the arts I wouldn't have completed High School, gone to college or received a job in Arts Administration. All forms of art bring people together. It allows us to think that there are no wrong choices just different choices.
2672. Monique Patter
2673. Verla Jean Cope PE is a vital part of every students' schedule. They need to be physically active and taught that it is important to continue to have physical activity as part of their everyday life for their whole life! The arts (humanities) help students to be able to learn their academic subjects better. They also need it to have a more well rounded education.
2674. Libby Robertson
2675. Alela Boyse
2676. Cecilia Preston
2677. Allison Petrone
2678. Nancy Tidwell
2679. Melissa Ingersoll
2680. Ann Pleshar
2681. Mark Landeen
2682. Cara Wiegand
2683. Sterling Cope I feel Arts and Health and PE is important
2684. Spencer Orton
2685. Justine Seferit
2686. Emma Cisneros
2687. Justine Lebeda
2688. Heidi Carter
2689. Lisa Kimzey
2690. Marci Johnson
2691. Erin Carnahan Erin
2692. Camryn Canlee
2693. Gwen Crist
2694. Mary Lee Hall
2695. Encca Hawkes
2696. Linda England linda england
2697. John Draper
2698. Lynette Lewis It will be detrimental to the rising generation if this August 4th decision is not reversed!
2699. Michelle Poarte
2700. Jana Larsen
2701. Jonathan Lafontaine
2702. Kiersten Anderson Kiersten Anderson
2703. Carl Wright Please don't eliminate this requirement from our middle school curriculum! I am a language arts and foreign language teacher in Utah. I am also a licensed school counselor and teacher-librarian, and I am endorsed for ESL. I see value in the arts and PE from every one of these roles! It would be detrimental to remove these requirements.
2704. Akoa Player
2705. Karissa Evensen
2706. Melane Wilcox
2707. Taylor Anderson
2708. Nathan Gunnell
2709. Karen Procina
2710. Ashley Jacobs
2711. Tessa Cox The arts changed my life. Taking them away is a mistake.
2712. Nancy Trunnell
2713. Deborah Nelson
2714. Jennie Jarrett
2715. Richard Munia In the Renaissance, a child was required to learn music to be considered educated. What happened?
2716. Linda Maxwell
2717. Odemary Rosado-Ortiz
2718. Amy Olsen
2719. Chris Jesse
2720. Kestee Amussen
2721. Lindsay Hudson
2722. M Martha Aviant
2723. Wendy Turner
2724. Darrell Hensleigh
2725. Sanja Shelton
2726. Kambree Bakotis
2727. Lisa Scott
2728. Dennis Gackstetter
2729. Mikaela Hamilton We need PE!!
2730. Kathryn Thomas
2731. Mariah O'Reilly
2732. Elizabeth Jackson Music and languages have made up most of my education and most of my life. I am passionate about subjects in the humanities and based on travel experience throughout the world, they are things that help bring down walls and forge connections. Taking them away is a serious mistake and will put Utah children at a serious disadvantage in this country and in the world.
2733. Ariane Audd
2734. Steven Braschinsky
2735. Andrew Medeiros
2736. Christian Martin
2737. Breeanne Saxton
2738. Suzanne Wawrofsky The students deserve a well rounded education. Please reverse your decision.
2739. McKenzie Van Grel
2740. Beth Shupe
2741. Marilyn Colter
2742. Julie Bridges
2743. Missy Allred
2744. Liz Ward
2745. Launa Williams
2746. Daniel Jerome Whose ever idea this is to cut the arts let me point you and then bash that painting over your head. You can't take water out of an ocean and expect the fish to swim.
2747. Shelley Washburn
2748. Mark Peterson My daughter teaches music in UT. Music education needs to be supported.
2749. Collette Kelley
2750. Ralph Binns
2751. Alyn Bone
2752. Shanna Smith As a teacher for 23 years and owner of a School of performing arts for 11, I know we MUST have music and the arts in our schools! It would be so crazy NOT to! MUSIC is a release, a powerful way to express yourself, it builds confidence, provides outlets to so many different personalities, gives so many options to pursue. Gives so many a place to belong. Music helps people feel, express, learn in a variety of ways, and communicate to others. I was involved in music and theater my ENTIRE life! It shaped who I am today, gave me countless opportunities that I would NEVER have otherwise had, guided my decisions, and gave me confidence, drive to achieve goals, and the opportunity to share a talent I have been given! Kids need music and the arts!!!
2753. Wendy Stettler
2754. Justin Smith
2755. Frank Bennett Those skills are vital to a healthy, thoughtful, well informed and capably active citizenry.
2756. Brooks Teeple
2757. Kari Bassett
2758. Nicole Vander Does Don't take away the arts. Why do you think technology keeps booming, and that humanity is progressing. BECAUSE OF ART!!! It helps the kids think a little more. It helps them get in touch with their creative side. It is so important to have these classes.
2759. David Chamberlin Arts education is not just about providing education for future artists; it's about much more than that - things much more important and far reaching. I can speak specifically of music, my field of specialty. Music is good for you! It's good for the brain, and it's good for the whole person. For those not athletically gifted it teaches the value of teamwork and personal responsibility. I have seen this effect in my peers, my own children and their peers. And it's true for graphic arts, theater arts, and dance (perhaps not an exhaustive list). I am convinced that everyone is better at whatever they do who has had some background - training, opportunity, challenges - in the arts.
2760. Mary Poelman
2761. Sheli Burningham
2762. Kamea Johnson The arts are essential to our students creativity and development. These programs absolutely must stay!
2763. Robert Hockworth
2764. Heather Steed Making these courses optional will hinder the personal development of those who choose not to take them.
2765. Katrina Powell A place without any culture taught only stunts the growth and success of a nation. The arts have been apart of the worlds society for centuries, and not teaching children the importance of these things, or even give them a basic knowledge of it will only keep them in ignorance in the world they live in as they grow into adulthood.
2766. Adriana Moore Do not take this from our kids, please
2767. Barbara Maus
2768. Shawna Gottfredson Shawna R Gottfredson
2769. Jayden McCrory
2770. John Shaw
2771. Katherine Thames
2772. Adam Brough
2773. Wydonna Andersen Wydonna Andersen: There's more to learning than reading, writing and arithmetic. Social skills are also important. The emotional and social development from Art, health, music and PE are invaluable. These may not be the favorite subjects but they are important! And while you are at it, please reinstate classes in cursive. Being able to read the history in the past is critical. Thank you!

- 2774 Nanette Noble You want to know what's wrong with education today? Bring back art, music, physical education etc., and give all children the desire to want to come to school
- 2775 Ingrid Deklau
- 2776 Amy Wikstrom
- 2777 Lori Standing
- 2778 Sarah Wagner
- 2779 Danny Putnam
- 2780 Michelle Barney
- 2781 Spencer Navas
- 2782 Ashley Kaiser
- 2783 Tucker Smith
- 2784 Cade Young
- 2785 Chris Orrick
- 2786 Courtney Cheney
- 2787 Louise Nelson
- 2788 Marjalee Smith
- 2789 Michelle Rias
- 2790 Duane Kaiser
- 2791 Mary Simons
- 2792 Kevin Westenslaw We need more ARTS in schools...
- 2793 Jess Wallace Jessica Wallace
- 2794 Marie Lofthouse
- 2795 Janna Mann
- 2796 Natalie Flynn
- 2797 jame dui
- 2798 Lori Resendahl
- 2799 Heather Gee
- 2800 Jill McClure We are doing a disservice to our children by removing fine arts requirements and foreign language requirements. If you have a student who wants to go out of state to college, but doesn't take a foreign language, they'll never be accept. We are limiting them. Let's try raising them up and challenging them
- 2801 Kurt Reeder The arts were central in helping me turn things around as a teenager. Who knows where I would be now without them? Very likely on the streets selling the drugs I sold as a teen. Please don't do this
- 2802 Michael Clark
- 2803 Jackson Richards
- 2804 Marshall Hatt
- 2805 Melanie Atkinson
- 2806 Jane Myers Jane Cariston Myers
- 2807 Miranda Ferris
- 2808 Patrick Seegmiller
- 2809 Patrick Green
- 2810 Tyler Kofaed
- 2811 Jeri Mellor
- 2812 Deborah Daines
- 2813 Wendi Bahn
- 2814 Jenessa Van Buren
- 2815 Marla Matt-Smith These should not be options
- 2816 Debbie Baskin
- 2817 Lenetta Priest
- 2818 Janelle Johnson
- 2819 Kathleen Makin
- 2820 Jeannie Hubbard
- 2821 Marcie Gibboney
- 2822 Christina Wagstaff
- 2823 Kathleen Kaufman With this decline in requirements, we are shortchanging the health of our young people. Given the high school required curricula, it is completely possible for students to avoid a health class for six years and graduate with a very poor understanding of health realities. Also, PE and art may be the only areas of expertise for many students and we are only encouraging sedentary lifestyle and increased obesity as well as not supporting any preventive work towards suicide reduction. Put these back into the middle school curriculum
- 2824
- 2825 Dawn Crown
- 2826 Fredenc Calom Fredenc Calom
- 2827 Jared Neeley
- 2828 Gina Jackson
- 2829 Steve Scott It's amazing to me as a physical education teacher, that the numerous amounts of research, that have validated that exercise or in this case physical activity can and does increase brain derived neurotrophic factors (BDNF), cognitive functioning, neuro synaptic firing, and a myriad of other brain and physiologically functions. still has not convinced some people of the benefits of physical activity during the traditional American school day. May you pundits should investigate the Finish school model of progressive education and the connections between physical activity and academics!
- 2830 Cheryl Cafe
- 2831 Luli Josephson
- 2832 Janet Hilton
- 2833 Jamie Webb
- 2834 Katie Murphy
- 2835 Anna Gomez A G
- 2836 Kimese Vanderlinden
- 2837 McKenna Treadway I have been in theatre and music my entire school career, without those things I would have never become the person I am today. I have seen the blessings that the Arts can bring to students, schools, and families. If the Arts are taken out of our schools, that limits more than half of the students' opportunities to learn who they are. Math and science cannot carry every single student, it cannot give them a career in the future or a better experience through their education. Some students are not successful in those areas of education, allowing the Arts to help students discover new possibilities in life. Without the Arts, we would have no actors to perform on our stages or on our TV shows. Without the Arts there would be no music or orchestras to play the soundtracks of those movies. Without the Arts there is no color or design in this world. Taking away the Arts is telling those middle school kids that what they love isn't good enough to be allowed in public schools. I have been a performer for twelve years now, I've seen a lot of students and shows and lines and costumes and lights and audiences but the thing that I have taken out most from my experiences is that even though I wasn't good at math or science, I was accepted for who I was in theatre. When I had a bad day, I would go to choir or dance and learn the notes and steps that I would need to lift not only my spirits but those of my audience as well. As an aspiring Theatre Educator, I want my students to know that they can be whoever they want to be in my class, in the choir room, in the dance studio, in the band room. Taking that away from them and telling them, in the years where they are just barely learning who they want to become, is telling them that they don't matter as much as the kids who are good at math or science. These "core subjects" only call to a small amount of students, the Arts touches everyone who likes to listen to music or likes to dance or likes to perform on stage or who likes to sing or play an instrument. Where would we be without our National Anthem? Where would we be without Beyonce or Ellen DeGeneres or Barbra Streisand or Julie Andrews or JK Rowling or any others who have made their livelihoods out of the Arts. If you take away the Arts, you attempt to silence an entire side of the brain. If you silence the Arts, you lose so much motivation. The students won't want to do what they hate when there is no good side to it. Think about what you are telling these kids, before you attempt to silence their futures
- 2838 Jessica Constant
- 2839 Gina Valencia
- 2840 Thomas Golightly
- 2841 Kathleen Carlson
- 2842 Colonne Christensen
- 2843 Barbara Wheat
- 2844 Anita Torgersen
- 2845 Robin Allen
- 2846 Tara Hall
- 2847 Belinda Gambirino
- 2848 Cheyenne Loertscher
- 2849 Janae Jackson
- 2850 Kaylee Cabrera
- 2851 Vence Kimball
- 2852 McCall Christensen
- 2853 Robert Petersen Robert Petersen
- 2854 Brittney Tycksen
- 2855 Clayton Price
- 2856 Marilyn Hammond
- 2857 Layda Kyremes
- 2858 Chelsey Harris
- 2859 Shannon Forsyth
- 2860 Carie Wilkinson
- 2861 Amy Hawkins
- 2862 Kim Hauser
- 2863 LaVanna Barton
- 2864 Eryn Thurnell
- 2865 Marcia Plathow Need PE as a requirement
- 2866 Judd Payer
- 2867 Anna Melo
- 2868 Kelli Pereira
- 2869 Elizabeth Barnes
- 2870 Jordan Brown
- 2871 Todd Quarnberg As a high school principal I look at the curriculum offerings and how they can prepare students for college and careers after graduation. It is the performance and risk students take by displaying, or performing their work. It is also the critique the world gives students that make ART and PE some of the most important classes a student can take. How will a student handle a poor critique? Will they fold? Will they quit? Have you ever watched a team come off a field, or seen actors/actresses after a poor performance? My job is to teach them how to deal with failure and build them with the confidence to try again. As a former science teacher, I couldn't teach these skills, at the same level students learned from coaches and arts teachers. Yes, yes, science is important because I taught students how to think about things differently and looked for hypothesis and facts. But I never had the opportunity to teach a student to get up after being knocked down. Who will teach students to get back up, brush off and get back into the game or on stage
- 2872
- 2873 As for HEALTH!! I lose more students to suicide every year than I do to drugs, traffic accidents or weapons. Someone needs to teach these students how to deal with stress and illness, so they can live a quality life. I LOVE my students, and they all know it. I can't bare to lose one more of them. I pray for the health and welfare of my students. Mental illness, anxiety, depression and suicide are more than our schools can handle now!! Teach them how to live a HEALTHY life so they can manage the problems they will face for the rest of their life.
- 2874 Amanda Niprakis
- 2875 Ja-Dee Riches
- 2876 Elizabeth Ballanlyne Please keep these classes in the required curriculum. These courses benefit all students. Thanks you
- 2877 Francis Turner Francis Turner
- 2878 Nicole Lamb
- 2879 Laila Stratton Laila Stratton
- 2880 Razann Petersen
- 2881 Gary White I am not interested in Health or PE, but if it means keeping the Arts, I am for it
- 2882 Diane Struck
- 2883 Melissa Due
- 2884 Michael Haggerty
- 2885 Laurie Sorensen
- 2886 Michelle Fish As a public educator, I feel it's important for students to have a creative outlet through the arts. And junior high students need to move!!! Both types of programs help them in core classes. They establish healthy habits, and allow students to develop talents. Please reestablish these requirements in schools
- 2887 Vannah Hall Vannah Hall
- 2888 Music has made a great difference for my children. Please reverse your decision and support a rounded education
- 2889 Patrick Doty
- 2890 Aubrey Knighton
- 2891 Jame Latt We need more arts in our schools already. Kids need to learn as much as they can when they are young. It helps them figure out what they are interested in for the future.
- 2892 Dr Robert Anderson Why must the arts always take the hit? What is wrong with u people?
- 2893 Ryan Miller
- 2894 Diana Bettino Diana Bettino
- 2895 Seventh and eighth graders need to develop the right side of their brain as much as the left. They need to be well balanced, especially at such a vulnerable age.
- 2896 Greg Robinson
- 2897 Erica Hurst I am a STEM college graduate and a woman and I can't stress how important these subjects were for me during middle and high school and even now. From someone who is from the STEM field, please keep these programs
- 2898 Kevin McDaniel Eliminating these programs from middle school takes away the joy that brings so many kids to school. Middle school should be the time when students explore their interests
- 2899 Karla Buenostro
- 2900 Emily Krzysik
- 2901 Kate Hunter
- 2902 Amanda Oaks Any policy move that further downplays the role of arts in our children's education is an incredibly short-sighted loss
- 2903 Emma Atkinson
- 2904 Margaret Hatch
- 2905 Jennifer Hutchins
- 2906 Jasyne Ferguson
- 2907 Carolyn Orthner
- 2908 Eliza Payne
- 2909 Amber Andrus
- 2910 Karina Jones
- 2911 Jennifer Miller-Smith Arts, health, & PE were invaluable to my children in SLC Public Schools. Please keep this requirement, it grows brains, brows, souls, grows bodies. Jennifer Miller-Smith
- 2912 Mary Garcia
- 2913 James Krzysik
- 2914 Lisa Hammond I believe it is a huge mistake to not give students exposure to health education until high

- school. Middle school health class curriculum includes mental health and suicide prevention (Utah leads the nation in teen suicide), self-esteem (Utah has one of the highest rates of plastic surgery in the nation), internet safety and learning how to interpret health information (fact vs opinion), human reproduction, safe dating, warning signs and where to get help for domestic violence and rape, prevention for sexually transmitted diseases, healthy food and fitness choices, drug and alcohol education, and so many other things that cannot be put off until high school. We cannot fail our children this way.
- 2915 Stephanie Hinkley
- 2916 Jill Carbridge
- 2917 Andrea Brewster
- 2918 Jared Steffensen
- 2919 Katharine Bele A rounded education is what makes America great.
- 2920 Nathan O'Bryant Protect our children from this horrible decision which the State School Board has made. Children in poorer and rural communities will be the ones to suffer. Art, music, health and PE develop a well-rounded individual and people who are more accepting and able to relate with other cultures and people.
- 2921 Barbara Fields I taught high school drama for 29 years. I saw EVERY DAY how students benefit for the rest of their lives from the arts.
- 2922 Brianna Winkleman
- 2923 Emily McKibben
- 2924 Victoria Witherow
- 2925 Kayden Macey Don't send me spam
- 2926 Camie Simpson
- 2927 Mary Pugh
- 2928 Connie Faux Connie Faux
- 2929 Kari Bernard
- 2930 Marnie Powers-Torrey
- 2931 Larry Witherow
- 2932 Hayley Imbler
- 2933 Katie Wilson
- 2934 Alta Lowe Davis
- 2935 Diana Trayer
- 2936 Erica Boyer
- 2937 Lauren Posey
- 2938 Emily Ellsworth
- 2939 Susan Chapman
- 2940 Jennifer Howard
- 2941 Stephanie Grant
- 2942 Christine McDonald
- 2943 Diane Farster-Burke MS, RN I understand there are arguments that schools want to have room to offer electives of their own choosing but to no longer require health, physical education, or art for middle school students is a horrible decision. As we look at a population of sedentary youth who can struggle with obesity, suicide, mental health problems, ADHD, or teen pregnancy, this decision to no longer require these course makes no sense.
- 2944 Kurt Bernhisel
- 2945 Diane Van Os
- 2946 Melissa Cambe
- 2947 Carol Bent Carol K Bent
- 2948 Andrew Zilles
- 2949 Kimberly Price
- 2950 Wendi Nelson
- 2951 Jojo Perera
- 2952 Hayley Campbell
- 2953 Stacie Raddatz
- 2954 Elizabeth Todd
- 2955 Jessica Cox
- 2956 Rebecca Kirkman Utah students need a well rounded education!
- 2957 Emily Atkinson
- 2958 JeneTte Swain
- 2959 Linsey Miller
- 2960 Jana Shumway
- 2961 Kris Collett
- 2962 Timothy Cosgrove
- 2963 Elisabeth Spencer
- 2964 Kaye Rachele Flanery
- 2965 Bonita Talleferon
- 2966 Chelsea Elting We need arts and health!
- 2967 Laneece Roberts
- 2968 Megan Campbell
- 2969 Brittany Porter
- 2970 Sherry Brunt
- 2971 Jessica Johnson
- 2972 Nancy Steed
- 2973 Diana Harman
- 2974 Stewart Hansen
- 2975 Raquel Speroni
- 2976 Jamie Stevens
- 2977 Jennifer Asplund
- 2978 Michelle Cook
- 2979 Kathy Youngberg Kathy Youngberg
- 2980 Carolyn Milne
- 2981 Terry Mitchell
- 2982 Cordela Schaffer
- 2983 Michael Clark
- 2984 Cecily Sakrison Cecily Sakrison
- 2985 Candace Egbert
- 2986 Alan Larson
- 2987 Heather Olsen
- 2988 Aaron Duncan
- 2989 Kate Moon
- 2990 Becca Spiute
- 2991 Kaye Willocks
- 2992 Rachel Roy
- 2993 Mary Smith
- 2994 Kayla Livingston
- 2995 Kim Pritchett
- 2996 Michele Done
- 2997 Ofa Takuvaka
- 2998 Elizabeth Lund 7th and 8th graders are developmentally at an age where artistic pursuits, physical activity and health education can be of most benefit. As young adolescents becoming independent they need programs available to encourage them to make healthy choices and develop habits that lead to emotional and physical well being. Many of the identified problems within our society (substance and drug abuse, mental health issues, teenage suicide, eating disorders, obesity, etc.) are directly or indirectly addressed by classes in health, physical education and the arts. It seems shortsighted to cut programs designed to improve quality of life because of budget constraints, when the cost of cutting these programs may be much higher over a lifetime.
- 2999 Summer Hansen
- 3000 Hailee Garrett
- 3001 Sarie Larson
- 3002 Michelle Larsen There is an obesity epidemic in the US and it is affecting our young people. Physical Education and health can directly impact this problem. There is also a teen suicide epidemic, and health class is the only place where young people can learn about mental health and how to effectively manage depression and anxiety. These classes are so important for teaching our young children how to live healthier and happy lives. It shouldn't be an option!
- 3003 It is statistically proven that students enrolled in art and music courses do better in their academic classes and on tests. It gives them a place to think creatively, develop patience and discipline, and learn problem solving and communication skills. The traits and skills acquired through art education translate into all other areas of a student's life.
- 3004 Amy Oglesby Thank you for your consideration. This is of utmost importance. A well rounded education is indeed vital for all of Utah's children.
- 3005 Emily Fisher
- 3006 Sarah Hinkley
- 3007 Belva Parr
- 3008 Caroline Jones
- 3009 Joleen Reddish Joleen H Reddish
- 3010 Alisa Webb
- 3011 Garrett Eaton
- 3012 Erin Grover
- 3013 Jared Gardner
- 3014 Jaralyn Stout
- 3015 Mike Alldredge
- 3016 Kate Tankovich Please keep the arts alive in Utah Schools.
- 3017 Pat Annoni
- 3018 Julie Peterson
- 3019 Michael Shelton
- 3020 Peggy Knighton
- 3021 Julie Webb
- 3022 Kasiidy Groves
- 3023 Sarah Gee Sarah Gee
- 3024 Jani Peters
- 3025 Karyn Clement
- 3026 Ma'afu Suliafu
- 3027 Tricia Gerrard
- 3028 Jaylyn Sears
- 3029 Chelsea Pratt
- 3030 Lindsey Del Castillo
- 3031 Sherrie Senese
- 3032 Audrey Lund
- 3033 Haley Sprague
- 3034 Ross Wille
- 3035 Jessica Tessem
- 3036 Jason Ferguson
- 3037 Jordan Morrell
- 3038 Alyssa Landroche This is SO important! As a future theatre educator I know that theatre and art is POWER. It enriches the lives of everyone that it comes into contact with. Art brings about change and change brings about a better world. Why get rid of that?
- 3039 Brandi Barahona
- 3040 Victoria Lyons
- 3041 Aerin Lund
- 3042 Bethany Patrick
- 3043 Wendy Jaskowick
- 3044 Kassie Gordon
- 3045 Lisa Thomson
- 3046 Kristen Baldwin
- 3047 Melinda Bryan
- 3048 Kate Shupe
- 3049 Bonne Jack
- 3050 Fath Camendant Davis
- 3051 Season Giles
- 3052 Camille Spence
- 3053 Jessica Fiveash
- 3054 Dan Swain
- 3055 Catherine Mortimer Catherine Mortimer
- 3056 Cynthia Thayne
- 3057 Allison Knighton
- 3058 Ty Carter

"It was scary to share my thoughts of suicide. I didn't know if I would be judged, but instead of judgement I was met with compassion. I no longer felt alone."



Introduction

An average of 557 Utahns die from suicide and 4,543 Utahns attempt* suicide each year. Youth ages 10 to 17 comprise 13.0% of the Utah population, 5.1% of all suicides,¹ and 22.7% of all suicide attempts.²

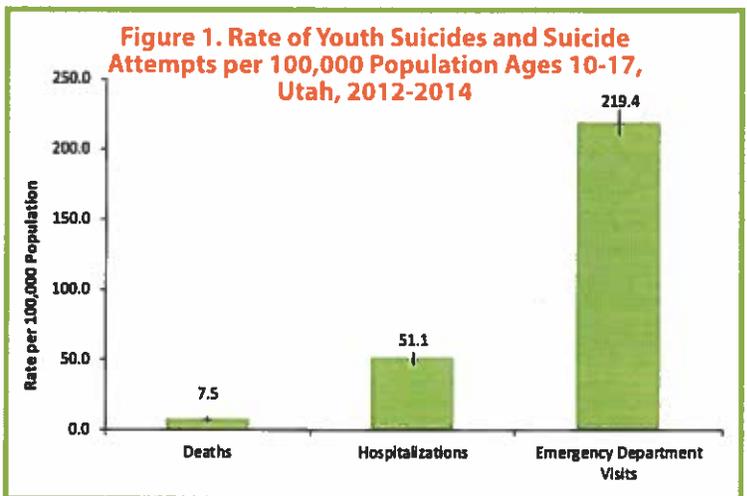
Two youth are treated for suicide attempts every day in Utah. More youth are hospitalized or treated in an emergency department (ED) for suicide attempts than are fatally injured (**Figure 1**). All suicide attempts should be taken seriously. Those who survive suicide attempts are often seriously injured and many have depression and other mental health problems.

In 2015, 24.8% of Utah students reported they felt sad or hopeless, 16.6% reported they seriously considered attempting suicide, 13.5% reported they made a suicide plan, and 7.6% reported they attempted suicide one or more times. These were significantly higher than percentages reported in 2013 at 20.8%, 14.1%, 10.8% and 6.2% respectively.³

*Suicide attempts include persons who are hospitalized or treated in an emergency department for self-inflicted injuries.

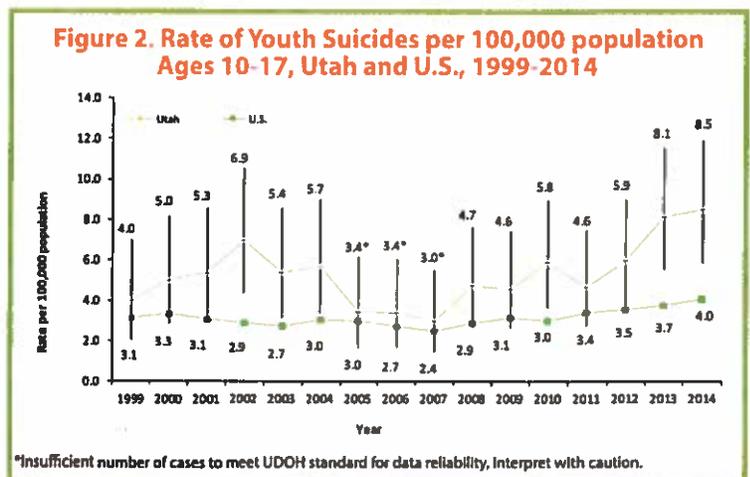
Utah Trends

The 2014 Utah youth suicide rate was 8.5 per 100,000 population ages 10 to 17.^{1,4} It is the leading cause of death for this age group.¹ The rate of suicide among Utah youth ages 10 to 17 has been increasing since 2011 (**Figure 2**).



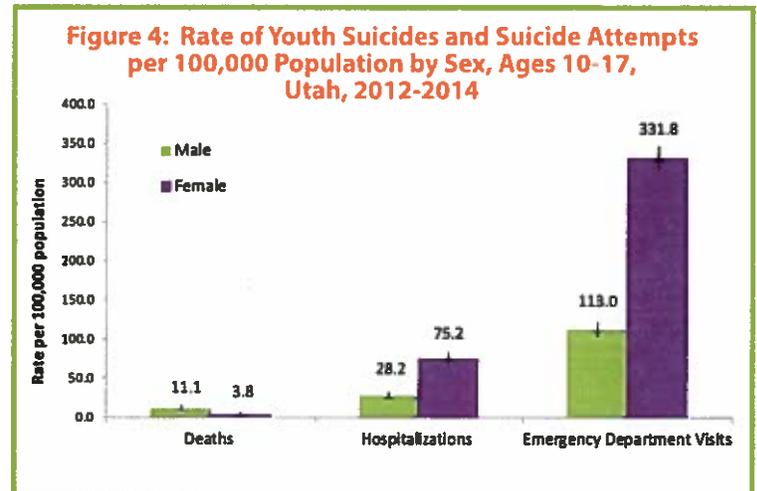
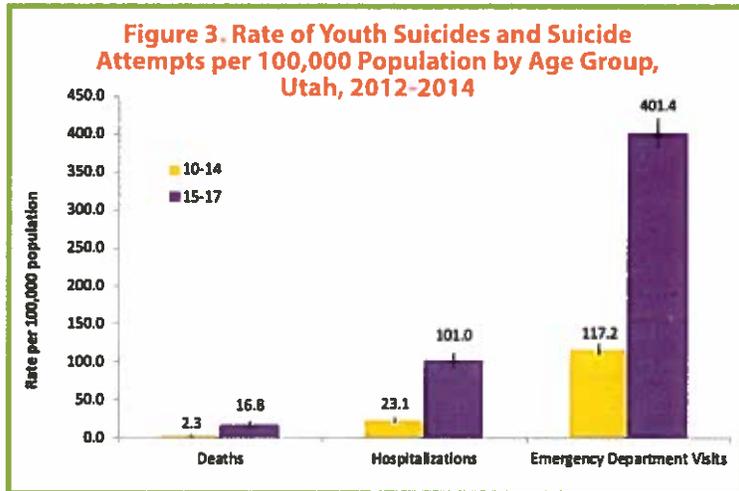
Utah and U.S.

The youth suicide rate in Utah has been consistently higher than the national rate (**Figure 2**). Utah had the 8th highest youth suicide rate in the U.S. for the years 2012-2014.⁵



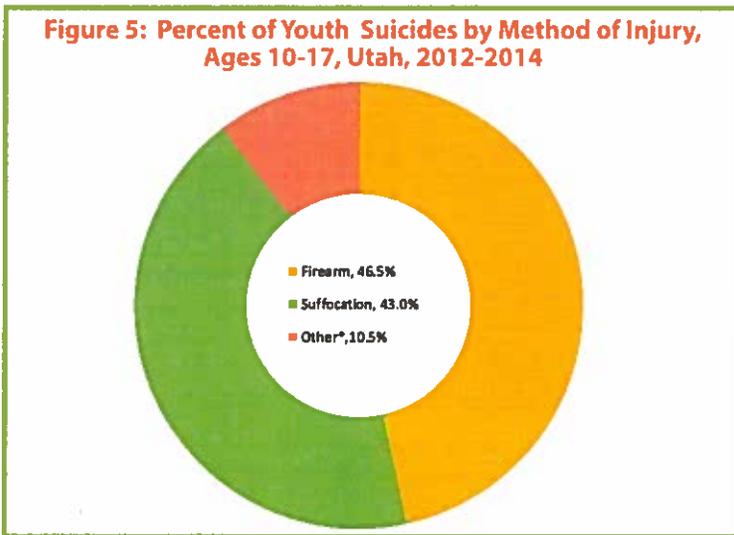
Age and Sex

Rates of suicide deaths and attempts increase with age, and are significantly higher among youth ages 15 to 17 compared to ages 10 to 14 (Figure 3).¹ Males ages 10 to 17 had a higher suicide rate (11.1 per 100,000 population) than females ages 10 to 17 (3.8 per 100,000 population). However, more females attempt suicide compared to males. In Utah, youth females had a significantly higher hospitalization and ED visit rate for suicide attempts compared to youth males (Figure 4).¹

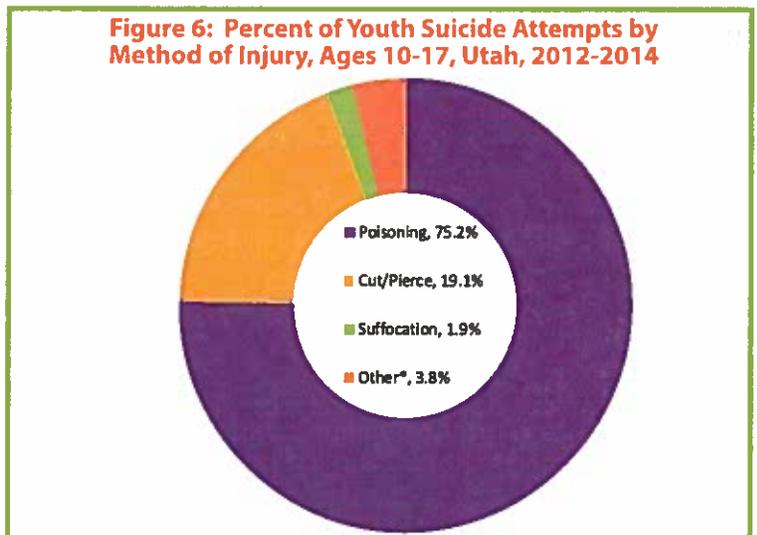


Method of Injury

Firearm was the most common method of youth suicide (Figure 5).¹ Poisoning was the most common method of injury leading to youth ED visits and hospitalizations for suicide attempts (Figure 6).²



* Includes fall, drowning/submersion, poisoning, other specified and unspecified.



* Includes fall, firearm, fire/flame/smoke, motor vehicle, traffic-other and unspecified, hot object/substance, drowning/submersion, and other specified and unspecified.

Location of Injury

The following Utah Small Areas had significantly higher rates compared to the state rate:

Highest Youth Hospitalization Rates for Suicide Attempts²

- Glendale, Ben Lomond, South Salt Lake, St. George, and Washington County

Highest Youth ED Visit Rates for Suicide Attempts²

- West Jordan, Cedar Valley, Kearns, Murray West, and Midvale

Cost

The average total charges per year for ED visits and hospitalizations for suicide attempts was \$4.2 million for Utah youth.²

Protective Factors

Protective factors are conditions or attributes in an individual, family, or community that increase the health and well-being of children and families. Protective factors may reduce suicide risk by helping people cope with negative life events, even when those events continue over a period of time. The ability to cope or solve problems reduces the chance that a person will become overwhelmed, depressed, or anxious.⁶

- **Receiving effective mental health care or substance abuse treatment**
- **Positive connections to family, peers, community, and social institutions that foster resilience**
- **Restricted access to highly lethal means of suicide, such as firearms or pills**
- **Skills in problem solving, conflict resolution, and nonviolent handling of disputes**
- **Cultural and religious beliefs that discourage suicide and support self-preservation**

Risk Factors

Suicide is a complex behavior and generally cannot be attributed to a single cause or event. Research has found that approximately 90% of people who die by suicide have a diagnosable mental health or substance use disorder at the time of their death.⁷ Suicide is also often preceded by a lifetime history of traumatic events. Several other factors that put a person at increased risk for suicide may include:

- **Alcohol or drug abuse**
- **Diagnosable mental health disorder**
- **Easy access to lethal methods, such as firearms or pills**
- **Family history of suicide or violence**
- **Lack of social support**
- **Loss of a family member or friend, especially if by suicide**
- **Physical health problems like chronic pain or traumatic brain injury**
- **Relationship or school problems**
- **Stressful life event or loss**

Screen Time

Students who reported playing video games or using computers for non-school related activities (social media, etc.) for three or more hours a day were twice as likely to have considered suicide compared to those who had two or fewer hours of daily screen time.⁷

Bullying

Youth who were picked on or bullied at school more than once during the past year were 4.2 times more likely to have seriously considered suicide compared with their peers who had not been bullied; among those who had been bullied at least once both at school and electronically, the likelihood was 5.8 times higher.⁷

Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual Students

Nationally, in 2015, 42.8% of lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) students seriously considered attempting suicide compared to 14.8% of heterosexual students; 29.4% of LGB students reported a suicide attempt compared to 6.4% of heterosexual students; and 34% of LGB students reported being bullied at school and 28% online compared to 19% of heterosexual students who reported being bullied at school or 14% online.⁸

Utah did not include the sexual orientation question on the 2015 YRBS survey meaning Utah data is not available for these measures. The Utah Department of Health plans to include this question on the 2017 YRBS. In Utah and throughout most of the U.S., no comprehensive data exists regarding the number of suicide deaths among LGBT persons because sexual orientation and gender identity are not generally collected during a police investigation of a death.

Prevention Tips

- Call **1-800-273-TALK (8255)** for help. Suicide is never the answer. Help is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.
- Take any warning signs or threat of suicide seriously.
- If you are seeing warning signs, ask the person directly if they are thinking about suicide. Asking does not increase risk of a suicide attempt.
- Do not leave the person alone.
- Listen without judgement.
- Remove firearms or pills to prevent a suicide attempt.
- Call a therapist or your local behavioral health authority to request a crisis appointment visit dsamh.utah.gov/crisis-hotlines-2
- If the person has a weapon or is not responding to attempts to contact them, call 911 and request a Crisis Intervention Team officer to do a welfare check.

Resources

- American Foundation For Suicide Prevention www.afsp.org
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Utah Chapter www.namiut.org
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center www.sprc.org
- Utah Poison Control Center uuhsc.utah.edu/poison/ 1-800-222-1222
- Utah Suicide Prevention Coalition www.utahsuicideprevention.org

Data Collection

The Utah Violent Death Reporting System is a data collection and monitoring system that allows the Utah Department of Health to better understand suicide by informing decision makers about the magnitude, trends, and characteristics of death. Data collected, when available, include demographic information, location of injury and circumstance information such as school problem, relationship problem, or crisis events within two weeks of a death. Data are collected from multiple sources and are linked together to help identify risk and protective factors, understand circumstances, and better characterize deaths. For more information, visit www.health.utah.gov/vipp/topics/nvdrs/.

References

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3. Utah Department of Health, Bureau of Health Promotion, (2015). 2015 Prevention Needs Assessment.
4. Population Data: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) through a collaborative agreement with the U.S. Census Bureau, IBIS Version 2014, data queried via Utah's Indicator Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS-PH) [cited 2016 July].
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6. Help Guide. Suicide Prevention. helpguide.org. [cited 2016 July].
7. Utah Health Status Update: Risk and Protective Factors for Youth Suicide. Utah Department of Health, February 2015. health.utah.gov/opha/publications/hsu/1502_Suicide.pdf. [cited 2016 July].
8. Kann L, Olsen EO, McManus T, et al. Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Related Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9–12 — United States and Selected Sites, 2015. *MMWR Surveill Summ* 2016;65(No. SS-9):1–202. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6509a1>.



If your life has been affected by suicide, the Utah Department of Health wants to hear from you. Share your story with the Utah Health Story Bank at www.health.utah.gov/bhp/sb/.

Our Mission: VIPP is a trusted and comprehensive resource for data and technical assistance related to violence and injury. This information helps promote partnerships and programs to prevent injuries and improve public health.

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