



MESSAGE POINTS FOR ARTS ED ADVOCATES IN TENNESSEE

- ✓ Arts education is part of a well-rounded education as designated in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA) and understood and supported by federal and state policies.
- ✓ In Tennessee, Governor Lee and the General Assembly recently affirmed the value of arts education with Joint Resolution 759. "...the State of Tennessee is committed to providing all students with equitable access to a quality education, one that includes the arts..."
- ✓ Tennessee Code Title 49 states: "The course of instruction in all public schools for kindergarten through grade eight (K-8) shall include art and music education to help each student foster creative thinking, spatial learning, discipline, craftsmanship and the intrinsic rewards of hard work." The arts are also included in Tennessee's graduation requirement.
- ✓ The arts are essential to education. Arts education supports the cognitive, social and emotional well-being of students, whether through distance learning or in person.
- ✓ The arts are central to Tennessee's culture and economy; they are key to the state's more than \$20 billion in annual tourism revenue. The collaborative and critical thinking skills developed in K-12 music and arts classes lay the foundation for key qualities needed in our workforce and will be vital in the coming economic recovery.
- ✓ Tennessee is home to a network of large and small businesses whose focus is music and arts education. These companies employ thousands across the state, including those working to manufacture, distribute and service musical instruments, as well as art supplies and publication of educational resources for students around the world.
- ✓ Music and arts teachers have demonstrated that changing instructional delivery models will not stop them from serving the needs of our children. They are using new technologies and creating resources and professional development communities to meet the students' needs and provide the well-rounded education mandated by Tennessee's state standards.
- ✓ Together, we must ensure that the decisions regarding school funding, staffing, and school schedule structures reflect Tennesseans' values and our commitment to our children, including quality instruction in music and the arts.