



# FMEA & FSMA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



## Increase the Value of Arts Education for Florida's Students

Protect students' rights to be enrolled in sequential fine arts course work by rejecting mandates that may cause unintended consequences.

- Develop fine arts Diploma Designation for students completing a sequential program of arts education in dance, music, theatre, and/or visual arts.
- Include the fine arts in the School Accountability System through increased points.
- Support proper reporting of the arts education teacher shortage (currently, Florida does not list music or arts as a shortage area despite the shortage of arts educators).
- Provide for access to and equity in the delivery of music education for all Florida students to advance music education by promoting the understanding and making of music by all.
- Revisit the Florida Plan of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) by including an increased emphasis on providing for a well-rounded education that includes comprehensive arts education for every student.

## Early Childhood

Recognize the importance of early childhood education for children from birth to grade 2. All young children have the capacities for learning in the arts. Thus, each has the right to a musical childhood in their lives and through their schooling.

- Research clearly indicates that all children are born with potential for diverse forms of music engagement. Research also indicates that time invested in appropriate music education benefits children across domains of development.
- Support Senate Bill 120 sponsored by Senator Keith Perry.

## Invest in Florida Students and Schools

Fund Florida schools to ensure success for ALL students.

- Maximize the efficient use of available state and local funds by: Allowing the Required Local Effort (RLE) millage rate to reflect increases in property value within the capped assessments by Florida's Statutes and Constitution, as well as new construction, as was the historical practice prior to 2016.
- Develop funding to address the critical teacher shortage by retaining highly effective educators through an increase in the Base Student Allocation per student over the 2018 allocation.
- Increase teacher salaries in a meaningful sustainable manner to attract and retain highly effective teachers.

## Student Engagement

Increase arts education for Florida students to help address student engagement in schools.

- Absenteeism is reduced when students are engaged in their school fine arts programs and attendance is increased when students are engaged in their school fine arts programs.
- Fund a pilot program with additional arts teachers in low socio-economic areas.

## Keep Students and Schools Safe

Provide students, educators, volunteers, and parents with safe and productive learning environments.

- Provide for participation in performing and visual arts as a positive way for students to express emotions productively through arts education.
- Strengthen arts programs in the schools to help address a well-rounded education and mental health for students.