

March 27, 2019

The Honorable Kansen Chu
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: **SUPPORT**

Location: Assembly Education Committee

Re: AB 398 (Chu) School accountability: local control and accountability plans: visual and performing arts (As Amended March 25, 2019)

Dear Assemblymember Chu:

On behalf of the California Alliance for Arts Education I am writing to express our support for AB 398 (Chu), legislation that would require the Department of Education to collect data from elementary schools to report on arts education instruction in elementary schools, taught by credentialed arts teachers.

This information will present a more complete picture of the current delivery system, enabling advocates and decision makers at the local level to make decisions impacting the lives of students. The data will illuminate where inequities exist regarding access to arts offerings, regardless of whether this inequity is based on race, geography or economic conditions.

The first step to reducing inequities is to make the inequity visible and specific. By being able to highlight specific inequity for specific schools the conversation moves from very general to very specific. By making inequities visible we empower communities past the first step of recognizing there is a problem. Once the inequity is revealed, the community may then develop strategies and plans to address the issue.

AB 398 will provide the State with valuable information to better understand the availability and quality of arts education for all elementary students. We believe this legislation is a significant step towards helping our state to identify and begin to address disparities in the current delivery system.

The California Alliance for Arts Education is in its fourth decade of working to build a brighter future for our state by making the arts a core part of every child's quality education. A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes California's abundance of arts and culture experts to advocate for quality visual and performing arts instruction for all students. By collaborating effectively with the state's leading education and parent engagement agencies and providing an anchor for policy expertise at the state and local levels, the Alliance is the leader in promoting the arts in schools and enriching the lives of children, families and communities.

Please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Landon", is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Joe Landon
Executive Director

cc: Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Ms. Marguerite Ries, Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Mr. Bob Becker, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate
California Alliance for Arts Education