



SAMPLE Letter to Local School Board Members

Personalize this letter and send it to your school board members to encourage them to invest in arts education as part of the planning process for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

Dear **[Name]** School Board Members,

[Personalize intro - I am parent / teacher / community member /]

I am writing because, like you, I want to see the students in our schools succeed and I've seen first-hand the powerful impact arts education can have on students' academic success. School leaders all over California agree and are making new investments in arts education to improve schoolwide outcomes. With the passage of the Local Control Funding Formula our district has an opportunity to invest in arts education programs that can help all of our student succeed.

A broad body of research has established the ways in which arts education addresses many of the priorities of LCFF, including:

Student & Parent Engagement: Students with access to arts education have higher attendance rates and lower dropout rates. The arts also engage the parents and families of students who are involved in performances and exhibitions.

Student Achievement & Pupil Outcomes: Students of all backgrounds and cultures are more likely to achieve higher GPA and test scores, graduate from high school and attend college when they have access to the arts. The arts also develop valuable skills like creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking that can help our students to succeed in today's job market. In a study by IBM, CEOs ranked creativity as the most important leadership quality they were looking for in workers.

As the district moves ahead with planning and budget allocation, I hope that the board will consider increased funding to improve the district's arts education programs, such as:

1. Develop a strategic visual and performing arts plan for the district
2. Provide professional development for teachers on arts integration strategies across the curriculum.
3. Restore the elementary music program to original levels including the 4th grade Introduction to Instruments program.

I am available to assist district administration to evaluate what makes the most sense as a first step. Thank you for your time, service and consideration.

[Personalize closing]