



Nicholas M. Gledich, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

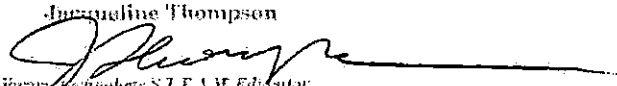
Manuel Ramsey, Principal
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I am writing today to inform parties involved in bill SB17-103 about the importance of arts funding and support in early education. As an educator at Bristol Elementary in School District 11 we have seen the positive impact that our Suzuki violin program for kindergarten through 3rd grades has had on our growth and performance scores.

Our district consistently supports our arts programs at many different levels from STEAM education to funding full time P.E. and vocal music and a part time visual arts educator yearly. Our data supports that the arts combined, with the early instruction of Suzuki violin, is what has greatly impacted our student growth and achievement. When we began our Suzuki violin program we analyzed the impact on phonetic awareness that led to increased reading capacity. Bristol is at the top of the district in DIBELS growth (dynamic indicators of early literacy). However, we are now noticing that our math scores for growth and achievement are much higher when compared with other schools similar to our student population and socioeconomic makeup. There is research showing the impact on the student brain and Suzuki violin instruction on younger students. Fortunately, our students have had this opportunity and are benefitting from it as we were the 2nd highest school out of any D-11 school for achievement and growth on the 2016 PARCC measures.

Not only do our students benefit academically from our arts programs, but our PBIS (positive behavior interventions and supports) data continues to support our efforts. Students of poverty benefit from consistent school wide and classroom systems which supports increased learning. Suzuki violin has been shown to increase self-control and empathy among students who are involved in the program.

Please continue to support art's education as is evidence by the impact it has had at Bristol Elementary.


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