

“

Music is about communication, creativity, and cooperation, and by studying music in school, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives, and experience the world from a new perspective.”

—Bill Clinton, former U.S. president

“

Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.”

—Victor Hugo, poet

“

Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them—a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement.

The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music.”

—Gerald Ford, former U.S. president



Visit [www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org) and search “Power of Music” for more School Board Resources.

For more information or to order these resources and additional advocacy brochures, please contact:

MENC: The National Association for Music Education  
1806 Robert Fulton Drive  
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800-336-3768



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A Guide for School Board Members

# The Power of Music

...Changing Lives



Supporting Music Education in Our Schools

In cooperation with





## The Many Benefits of Music Education

**School** board members can have a tremendous impact on music education programs by providing resources necessary to ensure strong music programs in their schools. Federal legislation defines the arts as a core academic subject, yet music and the other arts face more frequent financial and faculty related cuts than any other classroom program. A growing amount of statistical evidence supports the vital role of music education at all grade levels:

- Schools that have music programs have significantly higher graduation rates than those without music programs (90.2 percent compared to 72.9 percent).\*
- On average, students in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal and 41 points higher on the math section of the SAT than did students with no music participation.\*

In short, music education is an integral part of students' success. Fostering strong music programs in your schools will help you achieve your goals as a leader in the education community, and, most of all, will aid the growth and development of students in your district.

## Nurturing Music Education

**Supporting** your district's music programs can have powerful effects. Here are some simple, time-effective ways to assist your schools' music educators:



### Create and Foster an Environment of Support


- Study the ways that music education develops creativity, enhances cooperative learning, instills disciplined work habits, and statistically correlates with gains in standardized test scores.\*
- Establish and work to assure ongoing adequate resources for music programs including adequate time for instruction and funds for teacher development.
- Analyze the extent to which your schools' current music program matches the national consensus for program resources, quality, and structure by learning about the Opportunity-to-Learn Standards for Music Instruction.\*
- Make clear that all students, not just



the gifted, talented, or affluent, deserve the opportunity to achieve high levels of skill in music.\*

### Communicate Constructively

- Urge teachers to showcase students' achievements for parents and the community in concerts and performances whenever possible. Attend those concerts and speak about your views on the importance of music education.
- Schedule student performances at all school board meetings.
- Contact a music advocacy organization and schedule an expert to address the school board on the value of music education.
- Reach out to the business community for support and as a venue to arrange student performances in their workplaces.
- Lobby state and national level legislators to fund music teacher training programs.



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