

Friis, John

From: Micci-Smith, Alexandra C. [amiccism@conncoll.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 4:52 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666 section 5

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to urge that you do not change the way schools within ACES are funded. Those schools provide an irreplaceable educational resource and the proposals before you threaten to deprive area students of a chance at a life-changing education. My four years spent at ACES ECA changed my life completely. I was on the verge of quitting dance completely. I was dissatisfied with the world of ballet and the studio environment where I had been living since I was five. Through ECA and under the guidance of Susan Matheke, Willie Feuer, Marianne Banar-Fountain, and Nazorine Paglia I discovered my love for modern dance and choreography. I had more opportunities to work with great choreographers and view great works of dance than I would have outside of ECA.

My experiences at ECA were not purely dance related. Coming from the Amity public school bubble, I was accustomed to interacting with students whose lives mirrored my own: upper-middle class white suburbia. Coming to ECA was a culture shock as it drew students from varying backgrounds. I was able to learn from the different experiences of my peers.

ECA was an environment where I could create art and have it valued and appreciated by my peers no matter what department they were in. You cannot have that experience at a public high school. We were all creating art and vulnerable as a result. ECA made it ok to be vulnerable, and taught us to bare our souls and show the world what we had to say.

Two years after graduating from the Education Center for the Arts I am a sophomore dance major at Connecticut College. I would not be here today without ECA. After graduation I plan on pursuing a career in modern dance. ECA was the first place that helped me believe that I could have a future in dance. It taught me to follow my dreams. Do not take away the opportunities that ECA has to offer from your children.

Alexandra Micci-Smith
ECA class of 2007
Connecticut College Class of 2011
Dance Major