

## Friis, John

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**From:** Arielle [aavenia@g.risd.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2009 10:46 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** HB6666, Section 5

Hello

I attended ECA from 2002-2004. I am now at the Rhode Island School of Design for printmaking and painting on a very sizable scholarship. This would not have been possible without the support, mentoring, and facility of not only the ECA staff, but my fellow classmates that I leaned so much from.

My sister is currently a rising sophomore in high school and she wants to attend ECA more than anything next year. Many kids do not have the opportunity to take classes as fun and diverse as ECA classed. Most high schools have had the art and music programs cut out or scaled down largely because of budget. ECA gives kids like I was, and that my sister now is a chance to really really really exploit the resources that ECA has and excel in what they otherwise wouldn't be able to.

The impact that ECA has had on my life is nothing short of incredible. If I had not gone to ECA, I would have ended up dropping out of highschool because of lack of support from my teachers. My ECA teachers were invaluable- They are REAL WORLD artists, not people who wanted to be artists and failed, so they ended up settling for teaching jobs. My teachers were amazing, inspiring, limitless thinkers and teachers. To have teachers who are real life artists is EXTREMELY important in times like these. They were genuine people who had a passion for art and real-life experience that they passed on to me and the friends from all over CT that I am still in close contact with.

Please consider that not all teachers need a piece of paper saying that they are fit to teach. Many of my certified teachers know much less and are much more ignorant and passionless than 99% of the uncertified teachers I have had.

Again, please read all of our e-mails and consider our words very carefully. We are real people, and this will have a real impact. Selfishness and greed will not lead to enlightenment or happiness.

Sincerely,  
Arielle Avenia  
Rhode Island School of Design class of 2010