

Friis, John

From: Jen Farkas [jennyluck@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 8:52 AM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666 Section 5 = Support for Part-Time Teachers at ECA

I am writing to strongly advocate for Section 5 of House Bill HB6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly-trained professional artists, who serve as ECA's part-time faculty, to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 12-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

ECA was a huge part of my life for four years. I studied music there. Working through both my regular high school at ECA was a challenge, but it was an incredible experience, and was the single best thing to prepare me for college. As a student there, we were taught mostly by university faculty, and active people in the field. My music teachers were professors at Yale, conductors for local orchestras, people who traveled the world learning music. They were dedicated musicians and devoted teachers. Many of them lacked state certification, but their experience and teaching abilities were impeccable. They were the thing that prepared me best to attend Wesleyan University, and after doing two high schools, I was better prepared for rigorous academics, and was able to do more on campus!

I graduated in 2001, and I would be devastated if ECA were not available to students in Connecticut.

Best,

Jennifer Farkas
ECA class of 2001
Center Manager
Kaplan Test Prep & Admssion

3/16/2009