

Friis, John

From: Michelle Palmeri [michellie_design@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 6:32 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

Dear Mr. Friis,

I was a student at ECA from 1997 to 1999 in the visual arts department. If I hadn't gone to ECA I might never have gotten into an art college, or maybe any college at all. I know many people whose lives were dramatically impacted by that school, and the thought of it closing is devastating, not just for the alumni but for all the kids (from all surrounding towns) who will miss out on wonderful opportunities. The educational impact is not only huge, but also the the impact on the internal development and confidence of kids who are "misunderstood" or have no serious outlet for their talents.

The idea that the teachers at ECA need to be certified is ridiculous. Being a certified teacher doesn't necessarily mean you're a better teacher, I just gives you some sort of "credibility" in the States eyes. The people who work there actually DO what they are teaching (music, art ect) day in and day out. They offer real life experience, passion and an openness of expression and ideas that is practically not allowed in public schools. My best teachers EVER have been the ones at ECA, they are more dedicated, knowlegeable and caring than even my collge professors.

Closing ECA would be a huge mistake, and replacing teachers who have been there for years with people who are certified will only make ECA a more sterile and homogenous, negating the true spirit of what ECA is to so many.

Keep ECA open!

Sincerely,
Michelle Palmeri, New Haven