

Friis, John

From: Penn Rhodeen [pennrhodeen@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 9:05 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: letter with your name spelled correctly

Dear Mr. Friis,

>
> Please include this letter with those of others deeply concerned about
> the future of the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven.
>
> ECA is a wonderful program of longstanding importance to public school
> students in this area. My three daughters attended ECA and found it to
> be a vital element of their educations; they spent the mornings at
> Wilbur Cross High School and the afternoons at ECA in the classes of
> talented and dedicated artists in their fields--one in writing, two in
> drama. My youngest daughter entered the theater conservatory at the
> California Institute of the Arts in the fall and feels strongly that
> ECA prepared her extraordinarily well for that outstanding program.
>
> The state should be very careful to ensure that new legislation does
> not do mortal collaeral damage to ECA.
> Provision should be made to exempt the distinguished and dedicated
> artists who are such valuable and inspiring resources for our children
> from certification requirements that obviously make sense for full
> time teachers in regular schools but will operate as an obstacle to
> our children's access to those who have been such good teachers and
> mentors for them. Carve-outs for these artists--as I have heard is
> sensibly done to allow vocational students the benefits of learning
> from experienced craftspersons, mechanics and the like--seems like a
> sound and realistic approach.
>
> This is really important. Damage to ECA would be deeply damaging to
> the quality of public public education available to opur children.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Pemm Rhodeen
> 9 Burns Street
> New Haven
> 203 624-8421