

Friis, John

From: Sundari Birdsall [sbirdsall@oberlin.edu]
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2009 4:51 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

To whom it may concern:

An exception on certification should be made for ECA teachers. The world of the arts cannot be treated the same as the world of academics. State certification for teachers of the arts will not change the quality of the teaching.

With regards to the EA Education Committee bill:

Students who want to go to ECA should be allowed to pay to go, for those are the few who understand that the amount of money it costs is small in comparison to what a student gets back. I got so much from the program. I am now at Oberlin Conservatory, studying Violin Performance, and my decision to pursue the violin was a direct result of two years of training at ECA. Several of my other ECA friends have also gone off to top conservatories - Peabody, Hartt School, Berklee, etc. The musical environment that I encountered at ECA helped me to realize how much I loved the violin. At ECA, I made some of the greatest friends and musical allies of my life. I took risks in my electives, and lived for small things, like ten minute breaks between classes. The staff at ECA didn't impose the same kind of restrictive rules that high school did, and I was so thankful to be treated like an adult for the first time in my academic life. The professors I had prepared me for my future; in fact, the best Music Theory professor I have ever had was David Heetderks. Without the ECA experience, my life would be very different.

Sincerely,
Sundari Birdsall