Dear Sir Legislator Man,

I've never heard about this teacher problem or even considered the mere idea of *thinking* about of it before because I've never once believed that any of the teachers at ECA are "uncertified". How could they be? All of them are so experienced and caring, thoughtful, helpful, and inspirational. The word "uncertified" means *nothing* when I place them next to these words.

ECA has shaped most of my life for these past two years. I can't begin to describe how much of an honor and a pleasure it has been to be a student there. Without ECA, I would be a regular kid with an unrecognized passion that would eventually die. I'm only a sophomore and I already feel that I've learned and matured so much. ECA is the only school in my life where I feel as though I am actually *learning* something that I can *use* in my life. What else is there at my normal public school, stuffed with textbooks and those regular "certified" teachers shuffling around and assigning homework, giving tests and donating to my "education" as a young, brainwashed American destined for the same deal as anybody? It's tiring to sit in a classroom filled with people who aren't colorful, who are texting their friends and listening to their Ipods. In regular public school, it's impossible to *care* about what's being taught. It's easy to care long enough until the exam, and then forget, so that your parents can smile at you when your black & white report card shines a gleam of A's.

At ECA I'm able to forget that nightmare that I have to face all day. Without ECA, I would lose the ability to walk *away* from my public school and enter a place where I feel like I matter. I can already imagine the torturous feeling of walking to ECA one day, and then realize that it's been closed and I'm just skipping class by accident. It would devastate me, and hundreds of other students who depend on the uniqueness of ECA to survive in the boring world of high school. It's simply this: you can't close ECA. You just can't. I and so many other people would be lost. And you especially can't close ECA because the excellent teachers aren't "certified". How can you tell someone that they're *amazing*, but they're not *officially* amazing and therefore must go? You can't write a contract authorizing somebody's brilliance. Brilliance is just *there*. It doesn't *have* to be certified. I really mean it, you just *can't* close ECA. I don't know what I'd do. My life would walk backwards. So please, don't. It's too wonderful a place.

Sincerely,

Johan Sigg