Support Music Education

Courtesy of MusicFriends and MENC: The National Association for Music Education
Bob McGrath from Sesame Street

“My wish for music education is that every child on the planet would have the opportunity to be involved in the joy of music making in some fashion.”
Academic Benefits of Music

Better S.A.T. Scores

Students in music programs scored **57 points higher** on the verbal and **41 points higher** on the math than students with no arts participation.

More Academic Awards

Students that participated in music programs received more awards and academic honors than non-music students.
Lifestyle Benefits of Music

Better attendance
Research suggests music activities for all students on Monday and Fridays reduces the absentee rate on those days.
More Lifestyle Benefits

Graduation Rates

A Chicago teacher reported that in the Chicago schools, where the overall school retention rate is 50 percent, one inner-city Hispanic school was able to boast a **95 percent retention rate**. She attributes this to a strong music program.
More Lifestyle Benefits

Better Self-Esteem

After improving music programs, cases of low self-esteem, shyness and delinquency have decreased in schools.
Music Creates Opportunities

• A higher percentage of music majors are admitted to medical school than those of any other major.

• Because most colleges view participation in the arts and music as a valuable experience, at least one year of visual and performing arts is recommended for all college-bound high school students.
(Name of your school) students benefit from music education!

Add a Picture of Your (Music Students) Here
The Good News!

94 percent of the nation’s public schools have music programs.
The Bad News

57 percent of students receive only an hour or less of music instruction each week.
Challenges Facing Music Education

Few resources for music teachers

- Lack of funding
- Inadequate instruction time
- Music classes held in inappropriate spaces—closets, cafeterias, etc.

Music classes not required for graduation
Music Teacher Shortage

Each year, fewer new music teachers graduate than the number that retire.

If no music teacher is available, music programs are often permanently cut.
What can be done?

Take action by joining MusicFriends!

We need you

— parents and community members—

to strengthen music education!
What is MusicFriends?

- A free, national advocacy group that supports music education
- A resource to learn about the latest music education news through a monthly e-newsletter
- An opportunity to contact local, state and national legislators and make your voice heard!
MusicFriends on Capitol Hill

Educating national leaders about the importance of music education.

Helping to re-establish the arts communities after Katrina

Working to increase national arts and arts education funding
Would you like…

• Updates about music education?

• Opportunities to network with parents/administrators who want to improve music education?

• Instructions on how to write your legislators about music education?

• Skills for advocating for music education?
Join MusicFriends!

It’s free and easy to join. Visit the web site to sign up and for more information!

www.MusicFriends.org