

Sign on! Join the Partnership for Creative Learning

My organization endorse(s) the Partnership for Creative Learning and calls on the San Francisco Board of Education to stop raiding the California Department of Education's Arts and Music Block Grant to make up for cuts to the San Francisco Unified School District's general fund.

First name:

Last Name:

Organization name (if applicable):

Email:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Phone number:

Please list me/my organization as a member of the Partnership for Creative Learning.

Due to California's fiscal crisis, the San Francisco public schools budget is facing cuts at a magnitude never seen before: a **\$113 million budget shortfall** over the next two years. The Board of Education is being forced to address this wave of cuts by proposing some of their own, including **taking away funding that has been historically allocated to support arts and music education in our K-12 classrooms.**

We must immediately advocate to stop the San Francisco Board of Education from raiding the California Department of Education Arts and Music Block Grant to make up for cuts to the District's general fund.

About the Arts and Music Block Grant

Our public schools must deliver an **excellent education to all students** – an education that offers the full spectrum of core learning they'll need. This **must include the arts**, through which students develop critical thinking, creative expression, and basic learning skills in order to succeed in school, work and life.

The Arts and Music Block Grant helps our schools do just that, by allotting money for visual and performing arts instruction. In San Francisco, these are the approximate annual allocations to date:

- 2008-2009: \$839,000
- 2009-2010: \$713,000
- 2010-2011: \$36,000 (this is the resulting annual allocation due to the reallocation of funds to cover cuts to the District's general fund).

Raiding the Arts and Music Block Grant

The San Francisco Unified School District superintendent of schools' budget proposal is a two-year plan (2010-2012) that would "flex" funding from the Arts and Music Block Grant to make up for cuts to the general fund. This adds up to a **total loss of about \$1.36 million for arts education** in San Francisco schools.

- Repurposing this grant will significantly limit the District's ability to provide students at all school sites with a quality education that unleashes the transformative power of the arts to fuel learning, expression and innovation.
- This flexing reduces access and equality in arts education across the District. Raiding this grant will force schools to fundraise independently for their art programs. Schools in higher socioeconomic status areas are in a better position to raise their own money to pay for programming or send kids to out-of-school programs. Inevitably, only certain schools will have the capacity to bring in the funds necessary to include the arts as a core vehicle for learning.

The Partnership for Creative Learning

The Partnership for Creative Learning is a coalition of individuals and organizations united in our mission to build support for educational excellence that includes the arts, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the cognitive development of imagination, sparking critical thinking, and empowering expression for every student. For more information, contact Melissa West at Melissa@PerformingArtsWorkshop.org.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/01/27/ED9H1BNOE4.DTL>

Please review and sign! Send completed Letter of Solidarity either by mail or fax to:

Address:
Performing Arts Workshop
1661 Tennessee St, Suite 3-0
San Francisco, CA 94107

Fax: (415) 776-3644