

Date: School District Leader(s) Name(s): School District Name: District Address: City, State, Zip Code:

RE: CONCERNS OF POTENTIAL PROP 28 - ARTS AND MUSIC IN SCHOOLS ACT NONCOMPLIANCE

I am writing to express my concerns about our school district's potential noncompliance with Prop 28, the Arts & Music in Schools Act. Voters overwhelmingly passed Prop 28 to increase the number of arts education teachers and programs in every school.

Based on recent observations and discussions within the community, there are indications that:

These issues raise significant concerns about the district's adherence to the requirements outlined in Prop 28, which mandates that the funds be used to supplement (i.e., expand), not supplant (i.e., replace), existing arts education program funding. I request that the board and administration promptly investigate these concerns and take appropriate action to address any identified areas of suspected noncompliance. Our district must use Prop 28 funds to expand arts education, or it risks jeopardizing access to those funds and putting the district at legal risk.

Some school districts claim that since some prior funding sources for arts education staff and materials are one-time, expiring, or zeroed out by the district, they can use Prop 28 funds to replace those funds. That is not correct. Nowhere does Prop 28 say that the source of funds for existing arts programs (federal, state, local, or private) or budget changes creates any exception to the initiative's clear and plain language.

I urge the school district to thoroughly review its current practices and allocations to ensure full compliance with Prop 28. Also, I request that this matter be discussed at the following board meeting, for the Superintendent to provide a statement that funds have not been used to supplant any existing spending for arts education at any school, and a listing of additional arts education teachers and programs funded in the current year.

The arts foster crucial 21st-century workforce skills such as creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. Arts education can help schools meet many of their challenges and help save money by reducing dropout rates, increasing attendance, attracting more community support, and improving academics and mental health. By complying with Proposition 28, we fulfill a legal obligation and provide our students with the education they deserve and need for their life and career success.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you regarding the steps to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Name: Email: Phone: Local State Assembly Member and Senator & Local Media CC'd: