



Election 2018
School Board Candidate Survey
Peoria Unified

Davita Solter
Peoria Unified School District

Contact Information
5734 W. Acoma Drive
Glendale, AZ 85306
(623) 703-0922
dsolter@votedavita.com

Which of the following art forms do you have personal experience (training and/or participation) in?
(Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Instrumental Music
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vocal Music
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visual Arts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Theatre
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photography
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Creative Writing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Film

In which arts activities have your children participated in school? (Check all that apply)



Music

Theatre

Visual Arts

Dance

I have no children.

Other (please specify)

Until 2017, the Arizona Administrative Code required the teaching of music and visual arts in Arizona K-8 schools. Current policy now requires schools offer two of five artistic disciplines (music, theatre, dance, visual arts and media arts). According to the 2018 Arizona Arts Data Project (based on 2015-16 enrollment), under the previous requirement, only 65 percent of Arizona K-8 students had access to music and arts.

As a school board member, would you support a district policy that requires that all K-8 students in your district have access to at least two of the five disciplines, per the new state administrative code?

Yes

Students thrive from the arts and it helps them develop skills they can use in all other aspects of their lives: discipline, cooperation, concentration, teamwork, and more.

As member of the school board, will you support district-level policies that insure your district schools properly report all data to the Arizona Department of Education about arts education course offerings and student enrollment so that equity and access to arts education can be evaluated and parents are aware of whether their children are receiving a quality arts education?

Yes

We must follow the guidelines set down by the Arizona Department of Education and this information should be shared with all parents and community members.

Would you support a comprehensive district-wide assessment of the degree to which arts education is being offered in your schools, including enrollment, instructional minutes, teacher qualifications, resources and materials, and adequacy of student assessments?

Yes

It is important to share this information with parents and community members. However, there are some concerns as it is difficult to find teachers who have the specific qualifications to teach the arts. Sometimes, schools do not have the ability to offer the arts programs due to lack of qualified and quality teachers.

If elected, will you promote a policy of including arts education stakeholders in the annual required district needs assessment with arts educators appropriately represented on planning teams, etc.?

Yes

The Peoria Unified School District has been a frontrunner for arts education. It is valuable to our students to continue offering the variety of arts programs and classes. It is imperative to have our educators part of the planning and implementation of these programs.

The state A-F Report card for K-8 schools does not currently give a school ANY credit for student achievement in arts education because students often are not evaluated by grades, or “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory” measurements. If valid assessments existed, the State Board of Education likely would give credit for student achievement in arts, thereby creating a greater incentive for quality arts education.

As a member of the school board will you promote the adoption of a process to develop valid student assessments of achievement in arts education, based on the Arizona Arts Education Standards?

Yes

I believe in the adoption of developing a valid student assessment for the arts; however, I don't think a school should be penalized if a qualified teacher is not available.

Currently, the 9-12 A-F school report card only gives credit for student achievement in AP Arts Classes (as part of the College and Career Ready point formula). However, Arizona’s arts standards are sequential with increasing conceptual learning and proficiency to either the junior or senior level. Would you advocate the expansion of the College and Career Ready point formula to include credit for successful completion of study in an arts discipline (e.g., visual arts, theatre, music) to the senior level as is done for other academic and CTE courses?

Yes

Educators must be prepared to offer AP classes, having had the necessary training and education. If this is not possible, students are unable to take the AP Arts Classes. I would advocate for the expansion of the College and Career Ready point formula to take into account higher level arts classes.

Arts Education advocates are working to develop a Fine Arts Seal -- similar to the Civics and Biliteracy Seals-- to be affixed to the diplomas and noted in transcripts of graduating students with advanced achievement in high school Fine Arts.

If the state adopts the Fine Arts Seal, will you support the adoption of the seal in your school district?

Yes

No Reasoning Provided

Please take this opportunity to provide any additional comments about your views on arts education in our K-12 schools, or any other education issue you consider a priority as you seek a position on your district school board.

Having worked in education for the last 37 years as a teacher, administrator and Wellness Program Specialist, I have seen firsthand the value of the arts program. It is a saving grace for many, as well as a way students develop themselves in teamwork, creativity and organization.