



Election 2018
School Board Candidate Survey
Chandler Unified

Noemy Esparza-Isaacson
Chandler Unified School District

Contact Information
(602) 363-4566
noemy@noemy.com

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

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

I am a fervent support of the arts as I have had dual careers in technology and the arts. I am product of a public education in New Mexico and was the recipient of a high quality arts education growing up. In fact, I believe that my passion for music and the arts propelled my higher education career and in the end resulted in my dual success as a computer programmer and professional recording artist. The skills and techniques that are fostered by the arts and emotional outlet it provides, is the cohesive foundation for the other equally important academic pillars of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and history.

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

I believe a strong arts curriculum foundation reinforces and expands understanding of other subject areas. As a board member, ensuring that all children have access to art education would be a flagship issue. Metrics gathering and reporting of students' access to an arts education would raise awareness of importance of this educational pillar. A foundation in the arts is directly reflected in increased emotional security, leadership skills, creativity, resourcefulness, increased problem-solving skills and increased test scores. A well rounded student is prepared for a cutting edge career.

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?

Completing such an assessment would allow us to take a baseline measure of where we are with respect to the arts and set realistic goals for the years to come. All disciplines/subject areas are important but in recent years, the arts have not been prioritized. We need to reintegrate the arts into our current curriculum and a comprehensive district-wide assessment would be a great place to start. I also want to take a moment to praise the current Art Masterpiece programs throughout CUSD that run solely on a volunteer basis. Without this program, most students would not be exposed to the arts at all. Students are eager and excited when Art Masterpiece lessons come around monthly and I'm honored to serve on the Art Masterpiece board of my children's school.

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

Yes, I would do everything in my power to promote such a policy. Including stakeholders in the conversation is the best place to start so we all own the solution and jointly become champions of the end goal.

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 am in favor of establishing valid assessments for student achievement in arts education. For students wishing to enter a liberal arts or fine arts career, this credit could propel their higher education goals, provide greater opportunity and higher quality curriculum.

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

I believe in the arts as a career path, so I would advocate for this expansion to include credit for the listed disciplines. This would give students a valuable head start in their higher education or career choice.

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

Yes. Not only would this garner a great sense of pride, but any student whose accomplishments are awarded with this seal would have a great start in their college or university career, regardless of their area(s) of study.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on my perspective regarding arts education in CUSD. I value the work of Arizona Citizens for the Arts and look forward to being an advocate art education within our district.