



# EUGENE SYMPHONY

March 23, 2023

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Dear School District Leadership,

As you begin planning for next fiscal year, we urge you to invest in students' academic success and social-emotional development **by supporting high-quality music education programs in your district.** We know that schools are still rebuilding from lost learning opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that filling these gaps is no small task. Fortunately, studies continue to demonstrate the significant impact music and arts education provide for a well-rounded education and better student achievement across the curriculum. **In short, studying music helps students succeed, and can change their lives.**

Research shows that participation in the arts can lead to measurable gains, including higher graduation rates, better attendance, improved academic performance, enhanced listening skills, and empathetic collaboration. Equally vital skills that contribute to the lifelong success of a child include social-emotional development, pathways to creative thinking, self-discipline, self-confidence, and perseverance. Arts programs are often cited as the biggest reason why a child wants to come to school each day—the class that brings them beauty and joy and reminds them to strive for a better future.

**Every student deserves access to quality music programs**—whether general music, band, choir, or orchestra—regardless of their economic status or ability to participate in extracurricular programs. While some regional music programs are strong, there are still deficits and inequities to address.

**We urge you to ask yourself, is your district investing in quality music education programs in the following ways?**

- Access to instruments at minimal cost to families
- Quality and consistent instruction by licensed teachers with music endorsements
- Equitable core programs at every school site—including band, orchestra, choir, and elementary general music
- Adequate budget support
- Scheduling access and equity in how many days/hours each student receives instruction
- Devoted classroom space
- Sequential music opportunities as students graduate to different schools

Eugene Symphony proudly supports the work of regional music educators and administrators who are making incredible impacts in their students' lives and in our communities. **Together, let's champion strong music education programs in our schools.** We value your partnership in making this a reality for young people in our region.

Sincerely,  
Paul Roth, Chair, Education Committee  
*on behalf of the Eugene Symphony Board of Directors*

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE POWER OF MUSIC