



115 Pine Avenue STE 350
Long Beach CA 90802



Tonia Reyes Uranga
Candidate for Long Beach
Unified School District Board of Education
District 2

- Q. What will you do to ensure that every child has access to a complete education that includes the arts?
- A. I will encourage the district to collaborate with local arts organizations to develop and implement strategies for visual and performing arts. I will look at the arts in education plans initiated by other school districts such as Anaheim City School District and Burbank Unified School District. I will make sure that Visual and Performing Arts is present in the Local Control Accountability Plan. I will support teachers by bringing arts experts into the classroom to provide instruction that align with the scheduled curriculum being delivered.
- Q. What role do you think the arts can play in supporting key priorities of the district, such as reducing the dropout rate, closing the achievement gap, and preparing more students for college eligibility and/or meaningful careers?
- A. I believe that art plays a crucial role in supporting the priorities of the district. Art can be integrated into English Language Art,



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Science and Mathematics. Art is a way to ensure that ALL students regardless of background or ability are able to gain a greater understanding of themselves and can become a tool of self-expression. It has been discovered that when art is integrated into the various levels of curriculum there is a reduction in the dropout rate and achievement gap. There is a quote that is attributed to Picasso "Every child is an artist." It is up to the educators to nurture the creativity in children. The integration of art is how educators can nurture creativity and in turn stimulate students' desire to learn and be successful, therefore, helping the district achieve the goals it has set for students.

Q. In light of the new funding structure for school districts in the state (i.e. the Local Control Funding Formula), how do you see arts education aligning with the eight priority areas?

A. According to the California Alliance for Arts Education, art when aligned with the state's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) 8 priorities is a benefit. It is noted that when art is a part of the action plan for school climate it "decreases disciplinary problems and encourages positive student attitudes about their classroom." It has also been found that theater, dance, music and visual arts directly align with the state's priority of broad course of study. The research to support how art aligns with the state's 8 education priorities has already been done, I will utilize the findings to support funding to integrate arts throughout the LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan), which LCFF supports.

My sources:

<http://www.artsed411.org/>

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/documents/vpaframewrk.pdf>