Arts Access for All:

Lowell Mason Arts Education Equity Act (H.4297)

What's in the Act?

Named for Lowell Mason, widely accepted as the first public school music teacher in the U.S., right here in South Boston, **the Act guarantees that an additional 1% of each district's foundation budget will be added to its calculated MA state school aid ("Chapter 70") and earmarked solely for the five disciplines of Arts Education**: visual arts, music, theater, dance, and media arts.

Return on Investment (ROI)

Research since 2020 finds that Arts Education is a **driver** of student achievement, attendance, graduation, as well as improved behavior, engagement, and social/emotional gains.

- **College Completion**: Low-income students highly engaged in the arts are **twice as likely** to graduate college as their peers with no arts education (2012 report by NEA).
- **SAT Performance**: Data reported by Americans for the Arts (2023-2024) shows that students who take four years of high school arts and music classes score an average of over **150 points higher on the SAT** than students who take a half-year or less.
- **Dropout Rate**: According to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), students with high Arts participation and low socioeconomic status have a 4% dropout rate —which **is five times lower** than their peers with no Arts involvement.

Impact on Local Taxes

The Act **will NOT increase local property taxes.**

This new state aid for Arts Education **supplements** the district's Chapter 70 funds; it does **NOT supplant** it.

State Expenditure (if implemented in FY26)

Total State Foundation Budget	$15,314,834,159
1% of Foundation Budget	$153,148,342
Administrative Costs	$375,000
TOTAL IMPACT	$153,523,342

Supporters

Arts Access For All Coalition

Arts|Learning

MAEA Massachusetts Art Education Association

MADEO Massachusetts Dance Education Organization

MMEA Massachusetts Music Educators Association

MET Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild

Contact Arts|Learning: ArtsAccessforAll@artslearning.org