



OHIO ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

*Testimony on Senate Bill 219
May 7, 2024*

**Senate Education Committee
Senate Bill 219 Proponent Testimony
Jarrod Hartzler
Ohio Alliance for Arts Education
May 7, 2024**

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brian, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 219, which will restore the preK- grade 5; grades 4-9; and grades 7-12 licenses that were in place prior to the passage of House Bill 33.

My name is Jarrod Hartzler, Executive Director of the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE). Our organization works with over eight thousand arts educators in the state to ensure that Ohio students receive quality, standards-based instruction in the arts, and are prepared with the knowledge and skills to pursue careers in the arts, higher education in the arts, and participate in the arts throughout their lifetimes.

We support the restoration of the former grade band licenses because we believe that adding subject content and pedagogy for grades 6,7,and 8 to the current preK-5 license requirements will mean that there will be less time for education candidates to master a solid foundation in child development, content knowledge across the core subject areas, instructional strategies for young and adolescent learners, and classroom management strategies, which differ significantly for children in grades preK-5 and adolescents in grades 6-8.

Graduates from Ohio teacher preparation programs with the preK-8 grade band license, depending on the grade level assigned to a teacher, will enter their first year of teaching less prepared than current teachers to teach the “core subject areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, and fine arts.”¹ This could negatively impact the learning experiences of students in Ohio classrooms, owing to the fact that teachers are the most important school-based factor effecting student achievement.²

We understand that with time and professional development educators with the preK-8 license will become more proficient and effective, but how long should students have to wait? This is not a viable solution to address the teacher shortage, since schools and districts will have to wait for several years before the first educators graduate with the preK-8 license.

¹ ORC 3319.074 (A)(1)

² Rivkin, Hanushek, & Kain, (2005). Teachers, schools, and academic achievement. *Econometrica*, 73(2), 417-458.



The OAAE is also concerned that school districts will take advantage of educators with the new preK-8 license and employ some to teach courses in the arts, which would compromise OAAE's goal to deliver to all Ohio students effective arts education programs that are sequential, developmental, and based on *Ohio's Fine Arts Learning Standards*.

Currently, educators are considered "a properly certified or licensed teacher" in core subject areas, if they have earned the preK-grade 3; the preK- grade 5 license; and the older grades 1-8 and K-8 licenses. Some educators with these licenses are teaching courses in the arts in our schools now, including Visual Art (K-12) 020012, General Music 12001, Music (K-8) 122000. A complete list of arts courses and the types of licenses required to teach each arts course is available [HERE](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Additional-Information/Certification-and-Licensure-Dictionary/Fine-Arts.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US) <https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Additional-Information/Certification-and-Licensure-Dictionary/Fine-Arts.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

We believe that the most prepared and effective arts educators are those who graduate with a multiage license in a specific arts discipline of dance; drama, theatre; media arts; music; or visual arts. To earn this license educators must do the following:

- Major in an arts discipline as an undergraduate, which means earning 60 credit hours or more in an arts discipline.
- Complete pedagogical courses in their arts discipline.
- Complete student teaching in their arts discipline.
- Pass required pedagogy and content exams in their arts discipline.

Educators with the multiage license in an arts discipline are highly qualified not only in a specific arts content area, but in pedagogical techniques in the arts content area; school policies relating to the arts; building community relationships with arts organizations to support students; and how to support students with nascent artistic abilities. They understand an artform from a historical, critical, technical, and pedagogical point of view and also can teach the physical skills necessary to participate in the art form, such as dancing, singing, playing an instrument, or using visual arts tools and media. In many cases these educators are also professional artists.³

Researchers have also found that some primary education teachers do not feel prepared to provide standards-based instruction in the arts. (Byo (1999); Hash (2010); Miragila (2008); Thompson (1997)) The Byo study concludes that it is unrealistic to expect general education teachers to "lead students to mastery of all music standards without the substantial training commensurate with that of certified

³ Lauren Kapaika Richerme, et. al. Roles of Certified Arts Educators, Certified Non-Arts Educators, & Providers of Supplemental Arts Instruction. (State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE): 2012: p. 1. <https://www.philasd.org/arts/wp-content/uploads/sites/144/2017/07/SharedDeliveryofArts.pdf>



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music specialists.”⁴

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The OAAE reviewed arts course requirements for over 40 Ohio teacher preparation programs in 2019 and found that primary teacher preparation programs require teacher candidates to earn between 6-9 credits in the arts and often these are general education (GE) credits, which may or may not be education related. Few primary teacher preparation programs require candidates to take a methods course in an arts discipline. (See attached document “Early Childhood Education Teacher Preparation Programs in Ohio - Required Arts Courses” 2019.)

Educators earning the preK-5 license are required to pass the OAE 055 assessment, which includes about 12 out of 125 multiple choice questions on visual arts and music, but no questions on dance or theatre. ⁵

The OAAE is asking the Senate Education Committee to approve an amendment to SB219 that we have offered in the past during the debate about SB216 the Ohio Public School Deregulation Act (Matt Huffman) in the 132nd General Assembly. The amendment, which is attached below, was sponsored at that time by former Senator Teresa Fedor, and states the following:

“Section..... No school district shall employ any classroom teacher to provide instruction in dance, drama, media arts, music, or visual arts in any grades prekindergarten to twelve unless the teacher holds a valid license issued pursuant to section 3319.22 of the Revised Code to teach in the specific subject area. (AM_132_2557)”

This amendment is similar to one that became law in 2010 that requires school districts to employ licensed physical education teachers rather than assigning a primary education teacher to teach physical education. (Ohio Revised Code Section 3319.076 at <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3319.076>.)

We believe that Ohio students deserve to have a physical education teacher with a multiage license to teach them physical education. We also believe that Ohio students deserve to have an arts educator with the multiage license in a specific arts discipline to be their arts teacher. This is the best way to ensure that Ohio students have well-prepared and experienced teachers in PK-12 arts classrooms, which is one of the most important factors impacting student achievement and success.

Thank you for considering this testimony and our amendment request.

⁴ Susan J. Byo, Susan J. Classroom Teachers’ and Music Specialists’ Perceived Ability to Implement the National Standards for Music Education. (Journal of Research in Music Education: 1999) Vol. 47, p. 113.

⁵ Ohio Assessments for Educators, Assessment Design and Framework Field: Primary Education K-5, Pearson Education, Inc. 2022 https://www.oh.nesinc.com/CONTENT/STUDYGUIDE/OH_SG_OBJ_055.htm



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Proposed Amendment to SB216 Enact Public School Deregulation (Matt Huffman) Act
132nd General Assembly

Amendment No. AM_132_2557

Am. Sub. S. B. No. 216
As Passed by the Senate

Topic: Licensure requirements to teach dance, drama, music, or visual arts

_____ moved to amend as follows:

In line 7 of the title, after "3301.68," insert "3319.077,"
In line 19, after "3301.68," insert "3319.077,"
After line 1735, insert:
"Sec. 3319.077. No school district shall employ any classroom teacher to provide instruction in dance, drama, music, or visual arts in any grades prekindergarten to twelve unless the teacher holds a valid multi-age prekindergarten to twelve license issued pursuant to section 3319.22 of the Revised Code to teach in the specified subject area."

The motion was _____ agreed to.

Legislative Service Commission

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Attachment

Ohio Alliance for Arts Education, “Early Childhood Education Teacher Preparation Programs in Ohio - Required Arts Courses” 2019.

Sources

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