

## Lisa Cataldi

---

**From:** Tara Villanova <tara.villanova@cumberlandschools.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:07 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** The Transparency in Arts Education Access and Proficiency Act  
**Attachments:** Transparency Proficiency H-7020.pages

Hello,

My name is Tara Villanova. I teach Visual Arts at Community Elementary in Cumberland. I am writing to ask you to approve moving H-7020, The Transparency in Arts Education Access and Proficiency Act to the full house and recommend its passage.

The students of RI need this bill in order to raise the status of Arts Education to one of indispensable investment as the academic subject it is and to foster the Arts as the essential skill of countless career opportunities in the 21st century. Art, design and digital-related fields are abundant and comprise multi-billion dollar industries. When considered nationally and globally, the financial impact of the Arts is compounded exponentially.

I recently attended a meeting to hear about the experience of a teacher who spent two weeks in Germany as part of a cohort learning about school curriculums there. The German teachers made an excellent point when talking about the Arts in American schools. They said European countries would never consider cutting the Arts. The Arts are revered there as crucial for education, because the Arts create an intelligent and advanced society. Not just career opportunities in the Arts either, but for the beauty the Arts bring to our lives, physically and mentally.

We need Arts proficiency mandates for all students, and we need to maintain access and improve equity. Our students are the creative leaders of tomorrow's workforce. Every learner must have ongoing access to sequential Arts education throughout their PreK-12 education. In Cumberland, as in many districts, we have several elementary schools and middle schools that feed into one highschool. Students need the continuum of Arts education through their school careers to reap the crucial benefits of our subjects.

Thank you for your support of the Arts!

Tara Villanova

Visual Arts Educator, MAT

Community & Garvin Elementary Schools

RI Art Ed. Association President-Elect

RI Youth Art Month Co-Chair, RI Art Ed. Association

"It's not what you gather, but what you scatter, that tells what kind of life you have lived" - Anonymous

**Confidentiality Notice:** This e-mail, including all attachments is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact me and destroy all copies of this message.