

## WAEA LETTER OF REQUEST



WI School Administrators and School Board Members,

The field of Education is ever changing, and Visual Art and Design Education has become increasingly important and relevant! Whether your district is currently focused on social and emotional development, mental health, student identity, globalization, community connections, and/or Academic and Career Preparedness, Art and Design Education plays an important role in all of these areas and more (including improving academic test scores.) An art teacher is an interdisciplinary teacher who often takes on a plethora of additional “unofficial” roles within a school or district. The professional development and support needs of an art teacher are grand and varied, and they are largely unmet by district provided professional development. No other subject better provides students the breadth of future-ready skills (creative decision-making, problem solving with multiple solutions, analyzing and responding to constructive feedback, novel and adaptive thinking, time management, active agility, perseverance, cultural intelligence, etc.) than art education does. Are you providing the professional support and development your art teachers need to keep up with current trends and changes in Art Education to provide the best art education for your students?

WAEA (Wisconsin Art Education Association) is the resource WI art educators need to provide professional development, support and collaboration. Art teachers often find themselves isolated, lacking the collaborative support, appreciation and respect they deserve. As educational leaders, you have the opportunity to give art teachers what they need to be successful by supporting and covering the cost of WAEA membership by sending them to the WAEA conference each fall (membership of both WAEA and NAEA is included in the cost) and for your art teacher leaders, National Art Education Association conference each spring. The value gained by the district by an art teacher attending these conferences is immense. Not only will it re-energize the teachers, the knowledge, resources and connections made each year will continue to enrich your students’ experiences in art class. Additionally, the membership provides access to a multitude of other online resources and support through WAEA & NAEA throughout the year. For more information visit [WAEA](http://waeaweb.org/) [waeaweb.org/](http://waeaweb.org/) and [NAEA](http://arteducators.org/) [arteducators.org/](http://arteducators.org/).

Thank you for your continued support of your art educators and the quality Art Education of your students!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Handrick  
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