

Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program Commitment to Advocate for In-School Music Education

The Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program Believes:

- A child's education is not complete unless it includes the arts. The arts are an academic subject essential to a well-rounded education, and music is vital to maximizing a child's potential. Ensemble music-making in schools is an important part of a complete education.
- Schools are in a unique position to deliver comprehensive, high-quality, systemic music education to all students.
- Beginning at a very young age, robust education related to music of many genres and cultures is a key ingredient to youth development, and to creating opportunities for equity and access for all students through the arts.
- After-school hours are a vulnerable time for many young people, and community-based music education programs support initiatives with intensive music learning for students regardless of economic status.
- The needs of students should be at the center of education advocacy efforts. Music education programs are most effective when developed to address the needs of student learners in partnership with school leaders (teachers, administrators, caregivers), local arts organizations, and other stakeholders.

The Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program Commits To:

- Understanding the status of in-school music education in our community and in local school districts, and advocating for accurate data and accountability about how much and what kind of music instruction students receive.
- Discovering, implementing, and sharing best practices in advocacy for comprehensive, high quality in-school music education through sustainable partnerships with all advocates in the community.
- Consulting with educators, administrators, and community leaders to understand how the Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program's resources and strengths can best address the unique needs of students, schools, and communities.
- Partnering with our schools by requiring students' concurrent participation in their respective in-school music education programs.

The Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program Seeks To Improve The Status Of In-School Music Education By:

- Ensuring music education advocacy is a role for everyone in the AYSP family—staff, musicians and their families, board members, volunteers, and audiences.
- Advocating for policies that support the presence of qualified in-school music educators and that demonstrably improve access to high-quality music education for all students, particularly in low-income and underfunded schools.
- Proactively forming sustainable advocacy relationships with school partners, policy leaders, and community stakeholders to secure the success of every child's music education.
- Participating in forums where local, state, and national education policies are determined by listening to community needs and communicating the benefits of systemic K-12 music education.