

## Christopher Gilson

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**From:** charles.schoenfeld@adamsknight.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2024 10:48 AM  
**To:** 119K  
**Subject:** Testimony submitted via 119Kcommission.org

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## Testimony submitted via 119Kcommission.org

**Message from:** Richard Sadlon

**Organization:** The Connecticut Arts Administrators Association, Inc.

**Title:** Executive Director

**Email:** [ricksadlon@gmail.com](mailto:ricksadlon@gmail.com)

**City/State:** Sandy Hook, CT

**Areas of Interest:** Absenteeism, Education, Other

**Groups of Interest:** Youth Ages 14-17, Youth Ages 18-26, At-Risk, Moderately Disconnected, Severely Disconnected

**Subject:** Connection and Belonging Through High Quality Arts Education

**Message:**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the Executive Director of the CT Arts Administrators Association. Our mission is to promote high quality Arts Education for all children in the State of CT by assisting our Arts Education leaders with Professional Development, the sharing of "best practices" and assisting Arts educators with designing high quality, standards-based Arts curriculum.

Engagement in the Arts, Music, Visual Art, Theater/Drama, Media Arts and Dance, has been proven to increase student attendance and participation in school, increase the graduation rate, give students a sense of belonging and addresses multiple levels of the social and emotional needs of young people.

Students feel a sense of community. If Arts instruction is implemented in an informed and supported manner it can transform students, schools and communities. Unfortunately equal access to a high quality Arts Education is not available to many children in CT and Arts programs have been minimalized or eliminated in districts where children would benefit the most.

The CT Arts Administrators Association is an organization comprised of Arts Education leaders from throughout the state and has both the access and influence to the Arts Education programs for many thousand of students in CT.

We would welcome any partnership or collaboration to assist in improving the educational experiences for our young

people in CT. Please feel free to contact me to explore the transformative possibilities.

Rick Sadlon  
CT Arts Administrators Association, Inc

=== END OF MESSAGE ===