



TUCSON GIRLS CHORUS

Tucson Girls Chorus
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To Our Tucson Community:

SB1400 is an AZ education bill that has passed the Senate and has now moved to the House. This bill allows high schools to offer an elective credit for students who participate in outside activities, such as organized sports, private music lessons, or community organizations like Tucson Girls Chorus. The bill also allows for the expansion of this policy to middle and elementary schools.

Students who do not have certain resources to participate in these kinds of extracurricular activities may only be able to participate in the arts through their school. While SB1400 allows some families the opportunity to tailor students' schedules and maximize options for high schoolers, it could also pave the way for inequitable and diminishing Fine Arts programs across the state, specifically in public and charter schools.

The Tucson Girls Chorus has a robust community engagement program that includes choirs in partnership with Title 1 schools and music educator support through free professional development, school visits, and advocacy efforts. We believe that all children deserve access to a strong, vibrant music program in their school. Community organizations like TGC are a valuable part of Tucson's musical landscape, but we are not a replacement for school programs.

Title IV-A, part of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, also mandates that all students have access to a well-rounded education, which specifically includes music education. Even though SB1400 validates potential options for certain students, it also creates inequitable opportunities particularly if state funding for music education in our public and charter schools is decreased based upon these options.

The TGC will continue supporting our singers, our community, and our teachers. Just as we encourage youth to lift their voice, we now must do the same.

To learn more about SB1400 and how to contact your representatives, go to:
<https://www.azleg.gov/>

With the Girls in Mind,
Tucson Girls Chorus Staff and Board of Directors