



ARTS ACCESS UNEQUALLY DENIED – Example I **Common Conflicts of Interest = Discrimination**

The following letter is from a dedicated, veteran choir teacher in Alhambra USD in California, who found that potential choir students were blocked from their Title I K-8 “pullout” program exposing common, academic conflicts of interests. The results ongoing are socioeconomic and academic discrimination and segregation of vulnerable and disadvantaged students.

2-18-10

“It’s not only the DISTRICT that cut me from the elementary, but the PRINCIPALS that refuse to allow me to do what I was doing, or do not allot time for rigorous, CONSISTENT (key word here) training of the kids. The TEACHERS in the classrooms have a variety of opinions, but most do NOT want me there!!” [to teach pullout choir].

ARTS ACCESS UNEQUALLY DENIED – Example II **Math v. Arts = Unequal Education**

In early October 2009, an Alhambra USD California Title I school’s K-8 elementary “pullout” instrumental music program was scheduled during math time. Therefore, the teacher would not allow any of her students pullout access. *What gets tested gets taught.* Only one parent challenged the arbitrary policy and talked to the teacher, but the well-respected teacher informed mom that her child’s math test results were too low. But Mom went to the school principal and discussed the situation whereby they discovered the child’s testing skills did in fact qualify for pullout to music classes. The situation was unequally yet quietly resolved when only this particular student was to be exempted from teacher’s ban and allowed to attend music classes two times per week.

The rest of the class continues to be denied access, although there are other students who have math skills that also qualify for pullout. Mostly of low income, their parents apparently were unaware that their children are still being denied. That said, most would not be willing to challenge the veteran teacher and principal’s intimidating and seemingly unquestionable authority.

Parents for Music and Arts Action Committee

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