
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 750 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY WARREN, BIZZARRO, ULLMAN, DONATUCCI, KORTZ,
LONGIETTI, VITALI, HARKINS, T. DAVIS, HILL-EVANS, ZABEL,
MILLARD, BURNS, PASHINSKI, SCHMITT, RYAN, DRISCOLL, MURT,
KINSEY, THOMAS, FREEMAN, KIM, HOWARD, CIRESI, READSHAW,
BROWN, ROEBUCK, NEILSON, SCHLEGEL CULVER, CONKLIN AND
EVERETT, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2020 as "Theatre in Our Schools
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Theatre in Our Schools Month" is an annual event
4 dedicated to raising public awareness of the positive impact
5 that theatre education has on students and highlights the need
6 for increasing access to quality programs; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 50 million people attend one of more
8 than 37,000 school theatre performances annually in the United
9 States; and

10 WHEREAS, Theatre education teaches invaluable skills needed
11 to be successful in the workforce such as soft-skills, including
12 the ability to listen, artistic sense, nonverbal communication,
13 enthusiasm and storytelling; and

14 WHEREAS, Drama activities help enhance children's social-
15 emotional development by allowing them to develop an enhanced
16 understanding of the responses, emotional expressions and

1 actions of other people as well as strengthening their own
2 confidence, creativity, resiliency, agency and sense of
3 community; and

4 WHEREAS, Drama instruction integrated into elementary
5 classrooms improves students' social and emotional development
6 and contributes to a positive classroom culture; and

7 WHEREAS, English language learners in kindergarten through
8 second grade who received weekly drama lessons demonstrated
9 increased listening and speaking skills on standardized tests;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Students who took four years of art classes in high
12 school scored an average of 92 points higher on their SATs than
13 their peers; and

14 WHEREAS, Students with high levels of arts involvement are
15 less likely to drop out of school; and

16 WHEREAS, Reading play scripts out loud has been found to help
17 at-risk middle school students become better readers; and

18 WHEREAS, Disadvantaged students who receive an arts education
19 are three times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree than
20 students who lack those experiences; and

21 WHEREAS, Only 28% of public high schools in high-poverty
22 areas offer theatre instruction; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
24 month of March 2020 as "Theatre in Our Schools Month" in
25 Pennsylvania; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
27 positive impact that theatre education has on communities and
28 students across this Commonwealth and help raise awareness
29 regarding the need for access to quality programs for all
30 students.