

A Summary of Public Opinion from Harris Interactive

The Link between Music Education and More Education

The National Association for Music Education (MENC) and Rock and Roll Forever Foundation commissioned Harris Interactive in 2007 to conduct an independent poll¹ to assess the linkage between music education and educational attainment.

The results indicated that music education not only has an impact on pursuing higher education, it also indicates that the more music education one has the more likely he or she is to have a higher household income and a greater sense of personal and work-life fulfillment.

Respondents with more education indicated that music education and experience had an impact in five skill areas: ability to work toward common goals, striving for excellence in group settings, disciplined approach to solving problems, creative problem solving and flexibility in work situations.

Below are several of the findings that emerged from the data:

- Those with a postgraduate degree (51%) are more likely to say music education was extremely or very important than those with a college degree (38%) or a high school or less education (28%).
- 88% of those with a postgraduate education, 86% with a college education and 81% with some college education participated in music compared to 65% of those with a high school education or less.
- 83% of those with an income level of \$150,000 and above were in a music program, as were 78% of those with household incomes of between \$75,000 and \$149,999.
- 66% of adults and 72% of those who were involved in music say it equips people to be better team players in their careers.
- 61% of adults and 66% of those involved in music say music education provides people with a disciplined approach to solving problems.
- 59% of adults and 64% of those who had music education say that it prepares someone to manage the tasks of their job more successfully.
- Seven in ten U.S. adults say that music education had an influence on their current level of personal fulfillment, with more than one-third saying that their music education has been extremely or very influential.

¹ This Harris Poll was conducted online within the United States between October 9 and 15, 2007, among 2,586 adults (ages 18 and over), of whom 1,928 participated in a music program in school. Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

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