

Kim Bruguier
Equity Statement

Music education is critical in the development of a child. Music helps build both fine and gross motor skills, aids in reading and language, and helps to develop self-confidence. Every child deserves the opportunity to create music with their peers. As the mother and wife to 3 Cheyenne River Sioux tribal members I have seen firsthand the inequalities that can happen. A family's socio-economic status can directly impact their child's access to music, whether that be getting a ride to choir that takes place before school or purchasing an instrument to play in band. Our job as educators needs to shift to add the role of problem solvers as we need to find a way to help bridge the gap and get these students into our programs. These are students that could greatly excel in music, and it could be the "thing" that gets them to school each morning. Their biggest success of the day may be in music. This is not a singular effort though - administrators need to be a support system for the teacher and child in this situation.