

## Lila Kennah – Equity Statement

I believe that all students should have the opportunity to receive a quality music education from a highly qualified instructor. I am aware that barriers to this opportunity may look different in different areas of the country. In our rural area, one of the biggest hurdles to music opportunities is a lack of equipment as not all families can budget for a musical instrument. This then falls to the schools, where lack of funding sometimes also prevents schools from securing an instrument for all interested students. More and more frequently (at least in Wyoming), music teaching positions are remaining unfilled due to lack of applicants for these jobs. The regular classroom teachers do their best to fill the gap, but this is certainly not the same as time designated specifically for music instruction. We must continually strive to influence our legislators that funding for the arts has always been, and continues to be critical to the complete, well-rounded education our students deserve.