According to a Gallup Poll, "American Attitudes Toward Music," 95% of Americans believe that music is a key component in a child's well-rounded education; three quarters of those surveyed feel that schools should mandate music education.

In the same poll, 78% of Americans said they feel learning a musical instrument helps students perform better in other subjects.

Sources: "Music Makes the Grade," The National Association for Music Education (NAfME); Gallup Poll: "American Attitudes Toward Music"