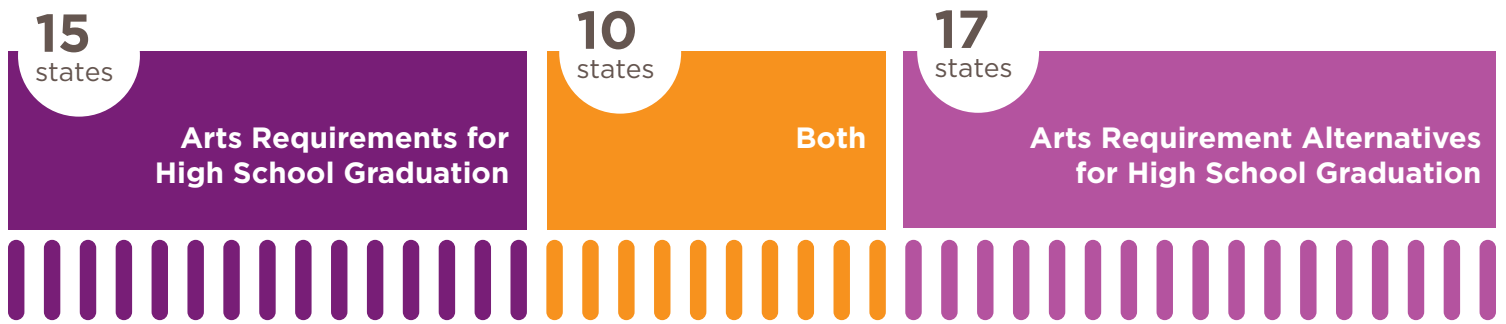


High School Graduation

There are disparities across states related to arts education access in secondary education, with some states having far more comprehensive state-level arts education policies than others. ArtScan explores these differences by capturing state-level policies that outline arts education high school graduation requirements, alternatives to earning high school arts education requirements and arts specific diploma seals.



** Ten states have no arts requirements for high school graduation

Arts Requirements for High School Graduation

ArtScan captures high school arts education graduation requirements separate from high school instructional requirements. Graduation requirements outline the number of arts credits that are required to graduate, while instructional requirements for high school captures arts content that is required to be taught or offered by schools or school districts. There is often a disconnect between district implementation of arts instructional requirements and arts course exploration for graduation. Instruction requirements do not always reflect graduation requirements, which allows school districts to make arts instruction an option rather than a requirement.

Some state's arts education requirements for graduation are not reflected in ArtScan because requirements are determined by the state board of education or department of education. [North Carolina](#), for example, has graduation requirements determined by the North Carolina State Board of Education rather than by state-level policy.

Although not fully explored in ArtScan, it is important to note also that there are major disconnects between arts requirements for high school graduation and higher education admissions. Many state and local graduation requirements are not adequately aligned with higher education admissions and content expectations.

Arts Requirement Alternatives for High School Graduation

The arts requirement alternatives for high school graduation policy area captures state policies that include arts course credits as an option to fulfill graduation requirements or includes alternative means to earning a required arts credit. For example, [North Dakota](#) requires three units of foreign languages, Native American languages, fine arts or career and technical education (CTE) to fulfill the required 22 credits for graduation. This allows fine arts credits to be an option for students rather than a requirement. [Minnesota](#) state statute, on the other hand, requires an arts credit for high school graduation but also outlines alternative means to earning the credit through completion of a CTE or ethnic studies course. There are also states that have more distinctive state statute or administrative code language around arts-specific graduation requirements.



State Highlight: Ohio's Arts Education Requirement for High School Graduation

[Ohio](#) has unique state code language that allows an arts credit that is earned in seventh or eighth grade to count towards fulfilling high school graduation requirements. AEP considers this language to be an arts requirement alternative because the state allows a fine arts course to be earned in middle school, not exclusively in high school.

Arts and STEAM Diploma Seals

ArtScan captures art-specific and science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) diploma seals that have been established at the state level. These types of diploma seals acknowledge students who have demonstrated excelled proficiency or achievement in arts learning. Depending on the state, diploma seals are also referred to as “endorsements.” Similar to graduation requirements, authority may be given to the state board, department of education or local school district to establish diploma seals.

States With Established Arts Diploma Seals

- [ARIZONA](#)
- [FLORIDA](#)
- [NEVADA](#)
- [NORTH CAROLINA](#)
- [OHIO](#)
- [OKLAHOMA](#)
- [SOUTH CAROLINA](#)
- [TEXAS](#)

