

Your Question:

Which, if any, states have provisions and/or specific line items for arts education in their budget and/or K-12 funding formula?

Our Response:

Education Commission of the States and the Arts Education Partnership identified three funding pathways used by states to fund arts education:

1. Discretionary Funds.
2. Funding Formulas.
3. Resource Allocation Models.

Discretionary Funding Through the State Education Agency

Arts education is most commonly funded at the local level using discretionary funding provided by the state through the state departments of education. This funding can be specifically earmarked for arts education, but districts can also use these funds for activities, such as professional development or curriculum and assessment development.

For example, [South Carolina](#) uses discretionary funds earmarked for arts education through a competitive grant process:

“Arts in Education Funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 1, VIII.A.1. Arts Curricula (\$1,487,571) shall be used to support innovative practices in arts education curriculum, instruction, and assessment in the visual and performing arts including dance, music, theatre, and visual arts which incorporates strengths from the Arts in Education sites. They shall also be used to support the advancement of the implementation of the visual and performing arts academic standards. These funds shall be distributed to schools and school districts under a competitive grants program; however, up to thirty-three percent of the total amount of the grant fund shall be made available as Aid to Other Agencies to facilitate the funding of professional development arts institutes that have been approved by the State Department of Education for South Carolina arts teachers, appropriate classroom teachers, and administrators.”

Other examples of states with earmarked funding for arts education include:

- [Alabama](#): \$200,000 for Arts Education Function.
- [Kentucky](#): \$18,545,00 for Next Generation Learner Programs, which includes elementary art/humanities.
- [Maryland](#): \$731,530 for Innovative Programs in Fine Arts, Aid to Education.

There are at least 10 states with department of education appropriations for specific schools, grants or programs for arts education: **Alabama, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, North Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah** and **Wisconsin**.

State Arts Agencies

[All states and jurisdictions](#) have established a state arts agency (SAA) to provide services and grant making to increase access to the arts. States designate funding for arts education through SAAs — separate from funding that flows through the state education agency. SAAs are funded through the state legislature and receive 40 percent of the federal grant dollars Congress provides to the National Endowment for the Arts. [In fiscal year 2017](#), 45 percent of SAA grants were directed toward programs and organizations with arts education activities. This funding can be used to fund teaching artists, residencies or school assemblies.

Foundation Funding Formula

A majority of states distribute funding for education through a foundation funding formula. Under this funding mechanism, the state determines how much money a district receives based on the demographic characteristics of the district and its students.

[New Mexico](#) was the only state identified that provides an additional weight for each student participating in arts education through the public school funding formula. It reads:

“The number of fine arts education program units is determined by multiplying the full-time-equivalent MEM in programs implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Fine Arts Education Act by the cost differential factor of 0.0166 for fiscal year 2004, 0.0332 for fiscal year 2005 and 0.05 for fiscal year 2006 and succeeding fiscal years.”

This means that districts receive an additional 5 percent of base funding for each student enrolled in a fine arts program.

Resource Allocation Model

A third funding pathway through which states fund arts in education is a resource allocation model, in which money is distributed based on the number of positions or other resources, instead of being distributed on a per-student basis.

In [Tennessee](#), K-12 education is funded through the Basic Education Program. Through the Instructional Salary category, a district receives funding for a music teacher and an art teacher for every 525 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. While the state generates a set amount of funding for fine arts teacher salaries, a district is not required to spend this money on fine arts teachers if the money is spent within the Instructional Salary category. This leaves districts with the autonomy to decide whether to fund art and music teachers.

[North Carolina](#) also allocates funding for arts education through a resource allocation model. North Carolina includes the arts, including dance, music, theatre and visual arts, within a program enhancement category. The state guarantees funding for Program Enhancement Teachers at a ratio of 191:1 for kindergarten through fifth grade. Not all states with resource allocation models distribute arts funding this way. For example, [Idaho](#) uses a resource allocation model, but does not have an art or music ratio in its funding formula.

Education Commission of the States Resources

[Read more](#) about school finance.