

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Overview of Proposition 28 Arts Funding for Schools

PRESENTED TO:

Assembly Committee on Education
Hon. Al Muratsuchi, Chair

Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports,
and Tourism
Hon. Christopher M. Ward, Chair



LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Background

Arts Education in Elementary and Middle Schools

- State law requires schools to provide instruction in visual and performing arts in grades 1 through 6, and to offer such courses in grades 7 and 8. The specific courses and amount of instruction is determined by local governing boards. Schools may also offer arts education through before/after school and summer programs.

Arts Education in High School

- In addition to requirements in core academic subjects, the state requires students to complete one year of either (1) visual or performing arts, (2) a foreign language, or (3) career technical education (CTE).
- Local governing boards can add other requirements for high school graduation. A 2017 survey found that about half of the state's school districts set their minimum graduation requirements to match the course requirements for admission to the state's public universities. Under these requirements, students must take one year of visual and performing arts, which cannot be fulfilled with foreign language or CTE coursework.



Proposition 28

Provides Additional Funding for Arts Education in Schools

- Beginning in 2023-24, the measure required the state to provide additional funding to increase arts instruction and programming in schools. The amount is equal to 1 percent of Proposition 98 funding that K-12 schools received in the previous year.
- Proposition 28 funding increased from about \$900 million in 2023-24 to nearly \$1.1 billion in 2025-26.

Distributes Funding Based on Formula

- Proposition 28 requires 70 percent of funding to go to schools based on their share of statewide enrollment. The remaining 30 percent would be provided based on a school's share of low-income students statewide.
- Local governing boards may set aside up to 1 percent of their funding for administrative expenses. The remainder of the funding must be distributed to all school sites based on the amount of funding generated by their student enrollment.

Requires Funding Be Used Primarily to Hire New Arts Staff

- Schools must certify the funds were spent in addition to existing funding for arts education programs.
- At least 80 percent of funding must be used to hire staff. (School districts and charter schools with fewer than 500 students would not have to meet this requirement.)
- The California Department of Education (CDE) may allow a school site to spend less on staff. This would require the school principal (or the program director of a preschool) to submit a written request.

School Principals Must Develop a Plan for Using Funds

- The principal or program director must also develop a plan for spending the funding they receive.



Proposition 28

(Continued)

Requires Annual Data Reporting

- The measure requires local governing boards to report each year that the funding their schools received the year before was spent on arts education.
- School districts and charter schools must make public on their website a report on how funds were spent. The report must include details on the type of arts education programs funded, the number of staff employed, the number of students served, and the number of school sites providing arts education with the funding received. This report must also be submitted to CDE and made public on the department's website.

