



STAGE 5

DEVELOPING A FUNDING STRATEGY

The development of a thoughtful, realistic, and feasible funding strategy is an important step in ensuring the success of your arts education plan. This process serves as a valuable opportunity to bring fiscal management/administration more deeply into the planning process, and to confirm that your plan is appropriately structured and paced for the long-term economic conditions in which it will be implemented.

REVIEWING EXISTING ARTS EDUCATION FUNDING

Based on the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan, you can begin to develop an overall funding outline based on diverse revenue streams for strengthening arts education in your county or district. Funding for the arts may be included and articulated in a school district's LCAP, in a County's general fund, grant, foundation or private funds or federal/Title funds. This is an opportunity to be creative, collaborative and look for strategic and sustainable funding sources and partnerships to support the plan.

Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

State funding through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is the primary source for school district funding and therefore the primary source to fund the arts sustainably. The LCAP describes the school district's goals to improve student outcomes, their planned actions and how LCFF funding will be used. School district boards and administrators must consult community members, such as students, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders to develop the LCAP.

Education Foundations

Many communities have established their own education foundations at the school, district, city, or county level. These foundations are typically affiliated with a particular local education agency and raise funds for designated programs and purposes. Some education foundations have successfully established endowments that provide ongoing, guaranteed funding for arts programs.

Parent Groups and Booster Clubs

In many districts, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) provides ongoing support for arts programs in the form of materials, supplies, or discretionary funds. Booster clubs have also been developed to raise funds for specific components of school arts programs (marching band, choir, etc.).

Note: Parent group funding should provide supplementary funding and should not supplant funding that is the district's responsibility.

External Funding

Arts Provider Organizations

Regional and local arts organizations often provide standards-aligned outreach programs and professional learning services to schools that may be subsidized by a private foundation, corporation, or government entity. Some programs are offered at reduced or no cost to schools, depending upon how the programs are funded.

Business Partners

Local corporations or local businesses that are part of a national retail chain may have targeted corporate contributions or “give-back” programs that provide supplemental funding to the arts programs in a district. Business partners can also be a valuable source of volunteer help, particularly for 1-day events. Many businesses will provide a matching gift for individual charitable contributions made by their employees, so be sure to follow up on this when parents and others make donations to your arts program.

Community Service Groups

Local community service clubs (Kiwanis, Rotary, Junior League, etc.) often provide supplemental funding for arts programs in the schools, sometimes through a competitive grant application process.

Local Governmental Agencies/Local Taxes

In some areas, city or county agencies may partner with the schools in arts funding. In some communities, parcel taxes or bonds have been passed at the local level that provide an ongoing source of funds for school arts programs.

Private Foundations

Local private and family foundations often support arts and education efforts. These foundations are often focused on program expenses and direct student services, but some will support general operating expenses and professional learning as well.

State and Local Arts Agencies

The California Arts Council and Local Arts Commissions or Arts Councils may dedicate a portion of their grants budget to visual and performing arts organizations that offer school-based programs.

Federal Agencies

The National Endowment for the Arts generously provides funding for Arts Education to nonprofits who work with school districts to provide high quality programming through Art Works grants.

The U.S. Department of Education also provides multi-year grants specifically for Arts Education.

