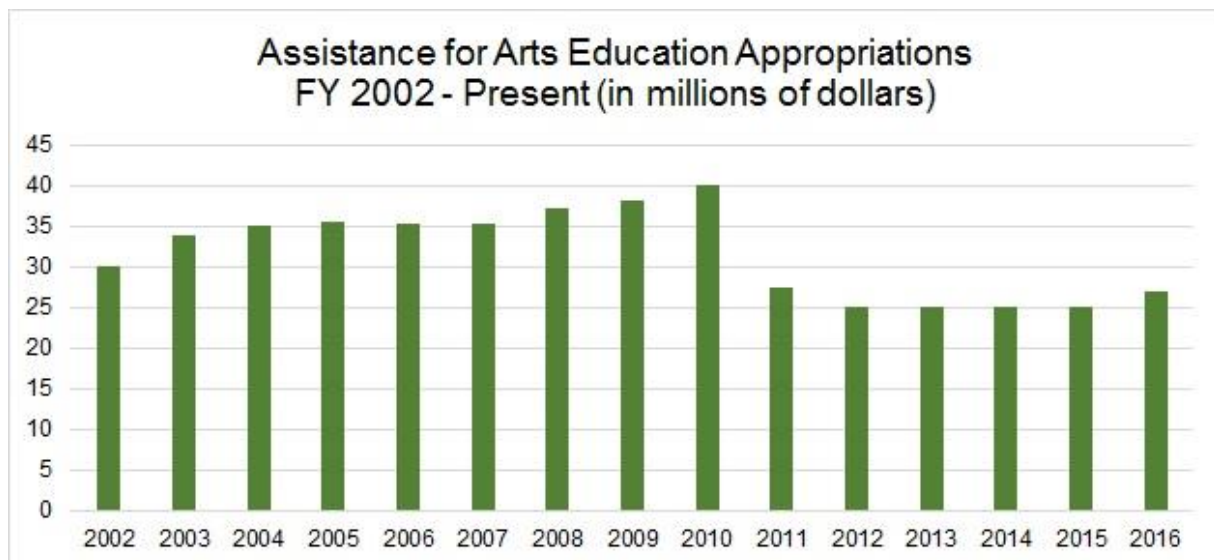


**FUNDING THE ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM AT
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
IMPROVING ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS**

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to:

Appropriate \$30 million for the Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) programs in the FY 2017 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The Assistance for Arts Education programs are authorized under Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



BACKGROUND

The Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) program at the U.S. Department of Education is authorized under Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and is a continuation of the programs previously authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as the “Arts in Education” program fund.

ESSA also recognizes the arts as essential to a “well-rounded” education. The arts education programs have received consistent bipartisan support from Congress. In spite of intense funding challenges year after year, these programs ultimately winning congressional support. Congress most recently approved a \$2 million increase in funding, appropriating \$27 million in support for the arts education program fund for FY 2016.

TALKING POINTS

- **Increased funding would support emerging education models that improve arts learning in high-poverty schools.**
 - **Arts Education Model Development and Dissemination (AEMDD) grants** strengthen student learning by supporting standards-based arts education and integration of arts instruction into other subject areas. AEMDD grants have funded a total of 185 projects, including rigorous evaluation of arts education strategies that can impact schools and communities nationwide.

- Innovative models to improve instruction for arts specialists and classroom teachers are supported by ***Professional Development for Arts Educators (PDAE) grants***. PDAE grants have supported a total of 82 projects serving as national models for effective professional development in arts education.
- The impact of these federal investments is multiplied by ***evaluation and national dissemination***. State and local education agencies can adapt these models to provide rigorous arts instruction for all students.
- National level, high-quality arts education projects and programs for children and youth, with special emphasis on serving students from low-income families and students with disabilities, are supported by a ***National Program Competition***.
- **A reduction below the current level of arts education funding would result in under-funding multi-year projects that are midstream.** Grant awards support projects over the course of up to four years. Cuts to funding would place these projects in extreme jeopardy.
- **Assistance for Arts Education grants have served more than 230 congressional districts in 33 states, including these examples.**
 - Dance Art, in partnership with Chicago Public Schools and Northwestern University, completed its Cultural Arts of the Americas Transforming Education (CAATE) project. CAATE received a four-year \$1.1 million FY 2010 Model Development and Dissemination grant. The partnership increased teachers' professional skills in integrating the arts into the core curricula and students' academic performance in reading, mathematics, and the social sciences through authentic and inquiry-based arts curricula.
 - The Tennessee Arts Commission received a four-year FY 2010 Model Development and Dissemination Grant of \$1 million to support its Arts360° program. This program connected teachers to improve instruction and impact student achievement by making arts-based and arts integrated learning a critical component of every child's educational experience. Arts360° served more than 1,000 students in four Knoxville pre-K–5 elementary schools.
 - The Highline School District in King County, Washington is partnering with Art Corps to create the four-year \$1.7 million Highline Creative Schools Initiative. The project received an FY 2014 Model Development and Dissemination Grant, and it serves a diverse population of 600 sixth-grade students in two high poverty middle schools. Expected outcomes include increased student achievement; increased literacy, and visual and theater arts learning; improved school engagement and middle school transition; and strengthened teacher capacity to deliver arts-integrated lessons and assessments.
 - The most recent Arts in Education National Program Competition awarded a three-year grant to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to provide arts education programs and resources focusing on pre-K–12. The programs and resources are in three areas: Teaching, Learning, and Partnerships; Performances for Young Audiences and Related Events; and Career Development for Artistically Talented Young People.

The U.S. Department of Education can maximize the impact of the direct federal investment in arts education by immediately disseminating information about the outcomes of projects funded by the Assistance for Arts Education grant programs.

The Performing Arts Alliance is a National Partner of the 2016 Arts Advocacy Day and a member of its Legislative Planning Committee. Positions in this brief were developed in partnership with the Committee.