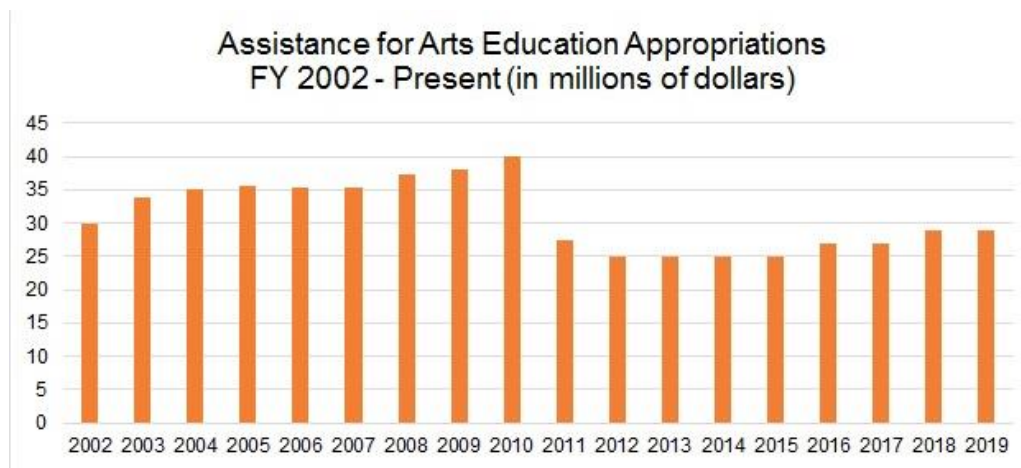


**FUNDING THE ASSISTANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM
AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
IMPROVING ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS**

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to:

- **Appropriate \$40 million for the Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) programs in the FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The AAE program is authorized under Title IV of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*.**



TALKING POINTS

- Student learning is strengthened through standards-based arts education and integration of arts instruction into other subject areas supported by ***Arts Education Model Development and Dissemination (AEMDD) grants***. The program has 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***. The PDAE grants program has supported over 100 projects that serve as national models for effective arts education professional development.
- The impact of these federal investments is multiplied by the program's ***Evaluation and National Dissemination*** component. For example, In FY 2009, the program exceeded its performance measure in both mathematics and language arts. In math, 12 percent more students reached the achievement target goal in the grant program group than in the comparison group. In Language Arts/Reading, 54 percent more students in the grant program achieved the target goal than in the comparison group. 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.

TALKING POINTS (CONTINUED)

U.S. Department of Education directs grants through the AAE program to strengthen the arts as part of a well-rounded education. Arts Education grants have served more than 230 congressional districts in 33 states, including these examples.

- Young Audiences of Louisiana (YALA) was awarded a four-year FY18 Model Development and Dissemination Grant of \$2.34 million to fund the Comprehensive Arts Integration Schools Model (CAISM) initiative, a replicable model with all the tools necessary to implement school-wide arts integration in elementary schools. This initiative builds upon a solid partnership between YALA and the Jefferson Parish Public School System (JPPSS), developed during two cycles the Arts Integrated Professional Development program, which provides intensive arts integration training to teachers.
- The Clayton County (Georgia) School District’s four-year FY 2017 Professional Development grant of \$1.2 million will provide professional development training to fine arts and math teachers designed to improve teacher practice and raise math scores on state tests. Partnering with Young Audiences’ Georgia affiliate ArtsNow, Crayola, and the Georgia Institute of Technology, the first year of the project will train all assigned arts (grades 4-9) educators in teacher leadership and math content knowledge specific to the grade levels of their schools.
- Metro Nashville Public Schools was awarded a \$1.2 million FY 2017 Professional Development Grant in a collaboration titled, “Music and Art City,” provides professional development for all visual arts and music teachers at the 55 Title I elementary schools in the district. The grant will also be used to build upon the district’s partnerships with the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and QuaverMusic, to provide learning opportunities to expand music and art teachers’ knowledge and skills and enhance their instructional practices in the classroom.
- In Cuyahoga County, Ohio, the Cleveland Play House (CPH) will partner with the Cleveland Municipal School District on a four-year FY 2018 \$2 million grant that will expand CPH’s Compassionate Arts Remaking Education (CARE) program. CARE uses theatre-integrated lessons and digital learning labs to increase academic readiness and literacy learning while developing essential theatre skills for high poverty students. The grant will allow the program to add six teachers, expand to a total of 10 schools, and reach over 4,100 students.
- The most recent 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 Career Development for Artistically Talented Young People.

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 recognizes the arts as essential to a “well-rounded” education. The arts education programs have received consistent bipartisan support from Congress year after year. Last year, both the House and Senate education funding bills included full support for the program fund and the final FY 2019 Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services bill signed into law included \$29 million for the Assistance in Arts Education program.