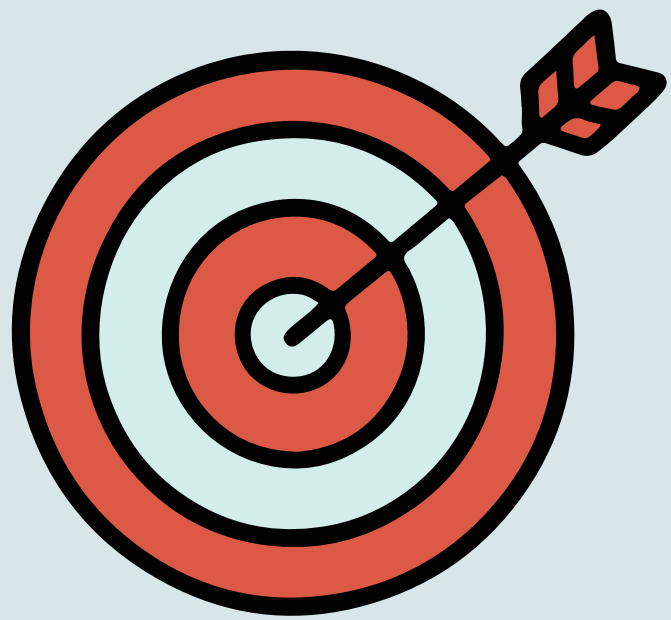


PROPOSITION 28 — ARTS AND MUSIC IN SCHOOLS FUNDING

California
Department of
Education (2022)



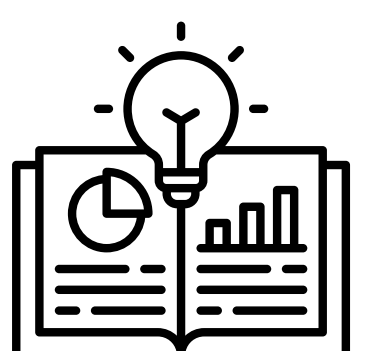
Purpose

Proposition 28 was created to provide California public schools with a dedicated and continuing source of funding for arts and music education. Rather than leaving arts programs to depend entirely on local school budgets, the policy sets aside additional state money specifically for arts instruction. The goal is to expand access to programs such as music, dance, theater, visual arts, and media arts and to make these opportunities more available across different school communities.

Context:

California voters approved Proposition 28 in 2022, and the program began funding schools in the 2023-24 school year. The policy provides an amount equal to approximately 1% of the previous year's K-12 share of Proposition 98 funding, creating a recurring source of arts education funding.

The funding formula also includes an equity component. About 70% of the money is distributed based on student enrollment, while 30% is distributed based on the number of economically disadvantaged students at each school. This means schools serving larger populations of low-income students can receive additional support beyond what they would receive based only on enrollment.



What is the impact?

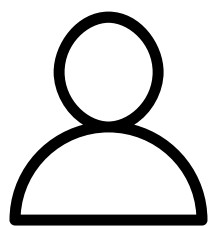


Policy Actions

Proposition 28 requires the additional funding to be used specifically for arts education. For local educational agencies with 500 or more students, at least 80% of the funds spent must generally go toward employees who directly provide arts instruction. The remaining funds can support materials, supplies, training, equipment, and arts partnerships.

Schools and districts must also track and report how the money is used. The funding is intended to supplement existing arts spending rather than replace it.

Who is affected?



The policy directly affects students in California public schools by increasing the resources available for music and arts programs. Students in economically disadvantaged communities may benefit especially because part of the funding formula is based on their enrollment.

Music and arts teachers, school districts, charter schools, and arts organizations are also affected through increased staffing, programming, and partnership opportunities.

Why does this policy matter?

Proposition 28 creates a protected source of funding for arts education instead of requiring these programs to compete entirely with other school priorities. It can help schools hire more teachers, offer new classes, purchase instruments and materials, and expand arts opportunities.

Its funding formula also addresses equity by directing additional resources toward schools serving larger numbers of economically disadvantaged students.



Limitations

Proposition 28 does not guarantee equal access to high-quality music education. Schools may still differ in teacher availability, scheduling, facilities, instruments, and existing program strength.

The policy also funds all arts disciplines, not just music, so schools may choose to prioritize theater, dance, visual arts, or other programs. Funding alone may also not solve deeper inequalities between schools with very different existing resources.

Sources

- <https://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/prop28artsandmusicedfunding.asp>
- <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/employers/assignment-resources/prop-28/>