



arts for all

Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education

February 19, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

To say that these are hard times is an understatement. We are aware of the burden you face in light of the Governor's proposed budget cuts and the uncertainty surrounding additional federal recovery act funds as you prepare your budget for the coming year. Especially now, we honor your district's role as an *Arts for All* school district. Your school board members are leaders in both Los Angeles County and the state of California to ensure every student has access to a quality standards-based sequential arts education.

As you are aware, *Arts for All: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education* is a series of policy changes and educational initiatives to ensure every public school student in LA County receives a high-quality, K-12 education in dance, music, theatre and the visual arts, during the school day, based on the Visual and Performing Arts Standards (VAPA) for California Public Schools. We commend you for adopting a landmark arts education policy and plan. Backed by district leadership, parents, community stakeholders, and bolstered by the *Arts for All* initiative, your policy and arts education plan demonstrate the strong commitment of your district to ensuring that every student has access to quality standards-based sequential arts education.

We hope the following information will be useful as you explore creative solutions this budget cycle.

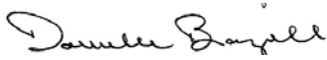
- Title 1 money can be used to provide professional development for teachers, support hiring additional teachers and classroom aides, and improve curriculum, all strategies which are outlined in your board-adopted arts education plan. Investing in arts education is a lawful and effective use of Title 1 funds.
- The new Federal Investing in Innovation (i3) Grants support local efforts to start or expand research-based innovative programs that help improve outcomes for students. Applications can be submitted by an individual school district, groups of districts, and nonprofits in partnership with school district(s). Given the vast amount of research linking arts education with improved student outcomes, you are eligible to apply for funds to support arts education in your school district.
- The *School Services of California CatWizard Lookup Tool* Web site is a searchable tool to access the most up-to-date information about available categorical resources that serve specific needs at schools and districts, and provides a specific search for available arts funding. www.sscal.com/catwizard/lookup_form.cfm
- The Arts and Music block grant through the California Department of Education still exists, though the amount your district will receive has been reduced and is now included in the third tier of categoricals allowing flexible spending.

The *Arts for All* Executive Committee encourages your continued allocation of categorical money to support your district-wide arts education infrastructure, which includes a district-level arts coordinator and arts teachers, as the most sustainable and effective way to equitably provide every student with a high-quality sequential standards-based arts education.

School Services of California recommends this year “there is a legitimate rebuttal to supplantation. An argument may be made if your LEA can demonstrate that absent this funding, arts and music related staffing and activities funded in a prior year would be cut from the budget due to the loss in state revenue. Consult your auditor regarding the documentation required to demonstrate a rebuttal to supplantation.”

Maintaining your commitment to arts education through the continued support of a district arts coordinator position, arts teachers, or other critical strategies outlined by your plan is essential to preserve the arts education infrastructure for your district. We look forward to continuing to explore with you creative ways to maintain your dedication to arts education a part of the core curriculum.

Very best regards,



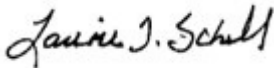
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