



RESULTS FROM THE state_{of the} arts

EDUCATION IN ALASKAN SCHOOLS | DISTRICT SURVEY

In 2023 the **National Endowment for the Arts** and **Alaska State Council on the Arts** awarded funds to the Alaska Arts Education Consortium to investigate what was happening with arts education in Alaska.

The goal of the **Alaska Arts Education Data Project** is to gather data and analyze the accessibility, equity, and quality of arts education. Arts education encompasses teaching and learning in and through the arts, both during and outside of school days, focusing on children, youth, and communities. We champion a vision of equity, diversity, and inclusion that ensures the full and fair participation of all students in arts programs, policy formation, and decision-making, making sure all voices are heard.

A survey, designed by a cross-sector working group, was conducted from April 8 through June 28, 2024. Complete data were received from 18 districts out of 54 districts – a 33% participation rate. All questions were optional; response totals may vary.

At the student enrollment level, these districts account for roughly 47% of students Pre-K through 12th grade. Further, all five general regions of the state are represented in the summary of data – North, Interior, Southwest, Southcentral, and Southeast. The core team of the Alaska Arts Education Data Project will use this survey information to initiate actions to increase the access, equity and quality of arts education across the state over the next year.

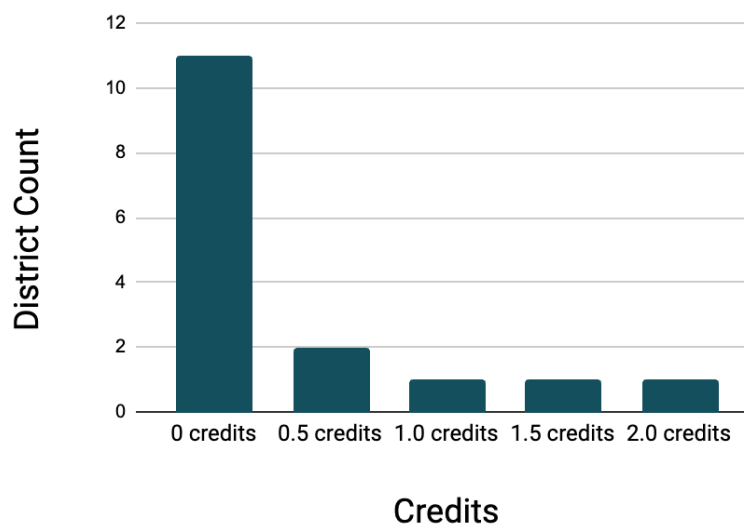
Policy

Number of districts reporting arts are referenced in their strategic plan

Category	District Count
Directly	0
Indirectly	7
Don't know	2
Other (Examples: Our board goal of college, career, and life ready directly references the arts; "Increase student participation in activities")	3
Not at all	5

Number of districts reporting the minimum number of arts credits required for graduation:

CATEGORY	DISTRICT COUNT
0 credits	11
0.5 credits	2
1.0 credits	1
1.5 credits	1
2.0 credits	1



Personnel & Budget

Number of districts reporting allocated funding for certified arts teachers
(include Type M, full-time and part-time)

Category	Districts with Filled Positions	Districts with Current Vacancies
Dance	2	0
Music	9	1
Theatre	3	0
Visual Arts	6	2
Media Arts	4	0
Alaska Native Arts	6	2
Other Cultural Arts	2	0

Total number of staff (*certified and classified*) providing instruction in the arts (*elective or required*)

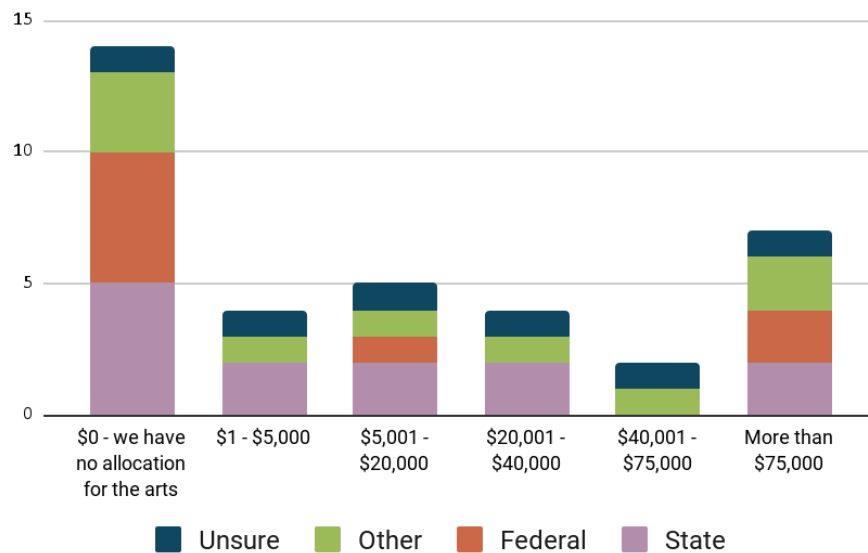
Category	Districts with 1 FTE	Districts with 2 FTE	Districts with 3 FTE	Districts with 4 FTE or more	Districts with Current Vacancies
Dance	1	0	1	0	0
Music	4	1	0	1	1
Theatre	2	0	0	1	0
Visual Arts	5	2	0	1	2
Media Arts	1	0	0	2	0
Alaska Native Arts	4	0	2	1	2
Other Cultural Arts	0	1	0	0	0

Number of districts reporting allocation sources and ranges outside of staff salaries

Category	Districts with State	Districts with Federal	Districts with Other	Districts with Unsure
\$0 - we do not have an allocation for the arts	5	5	3	1
\$1 - \$5,000	2	0	1	1
\$5,001 - \$20,000	2	1	1	1
\$20,001 - \$40,000	2	0	1	1
\$40,001 - \$75,000	0	0	1	1
More than \$75,000	2	2	2	1

Allocation for arts education outside of staff salaries

(5 out of 18 districts report arts ed allocation of general funds)



In the last 2 years, funding received from outside sources other than district general funds to support arts education

Category	District Count
Native Corporations or Native Corporation Non-Profit (example: Sealaska Heritage Institute/Goldbelt Heritage)	7
Alaska State Council on the Arts (example: New Visions Arts Grant)	7
Local or regional business or corporation	5
Alaska Arts Education Consortium	5
None	4
City or borough government (example: local property taxes, local borough allocation)	3
Federal grants other than Title funding	3
In kind or donations	2
Local arts council	1
Private foundation(s)	1
PTA or Parent Group	0

Curriculum & Instruction: Elementary

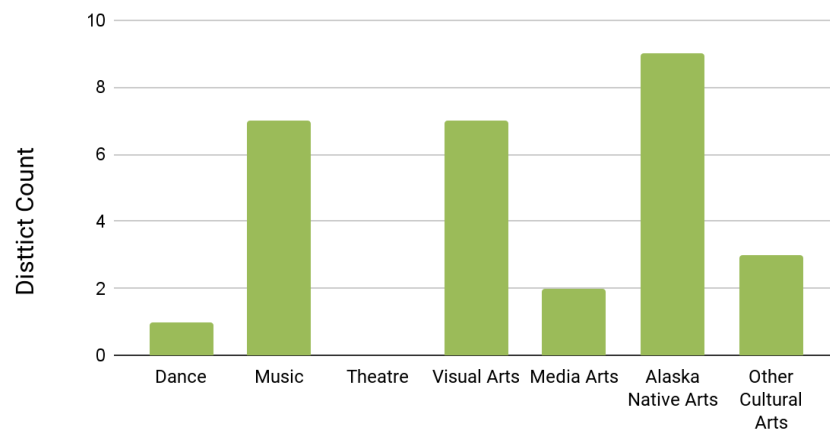
Number of districts reporting approved or adopted arts curriculum

Category	Pre-K	Grades K-2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Dance	0	0	0	1	2
Music	1	5	5	6	8
Theatre	0	0	0	2	4
Visual Arts	0	4	4	5	7
Media Arts	0	1	1	2	5
Alaska Native Arts	2	3	3	3	4
Other Cultural Arts	0	1	1	1	2

Districts reporting curriculum aligned with Alaska Arts Standards

Category	District Count
Yes	7
No	3
Don't Know	7

Number of districts reporting that ALL elementary students have opportunities to receive arts instruction



Times and length of elementary art instruction per week (*examples reported by districts*)

Category	District Responses
Dance	<i>none reported</i>
Music	1 time per week for 50 minutes 30 mins per week 1 time per week for 60 mins 5 times a week 2 times a week
Theatre	<i>none reported</i>
Visual Arts	2 times a week for 45 minutes 1 time a week for 30- 45 minutes 30 mins per week 2 times a month for 60 mins 1 time a week - unknown
Media Arts	<i>none reported</i>
Alaska Native Arts	5 times a week for 30 mins - approximately 3 hrs per semester - once a week for 45 minutes - not consistently - unknown 2 times a week 1 time a week
Other Cultural Arts	- STEAM 5 times a week

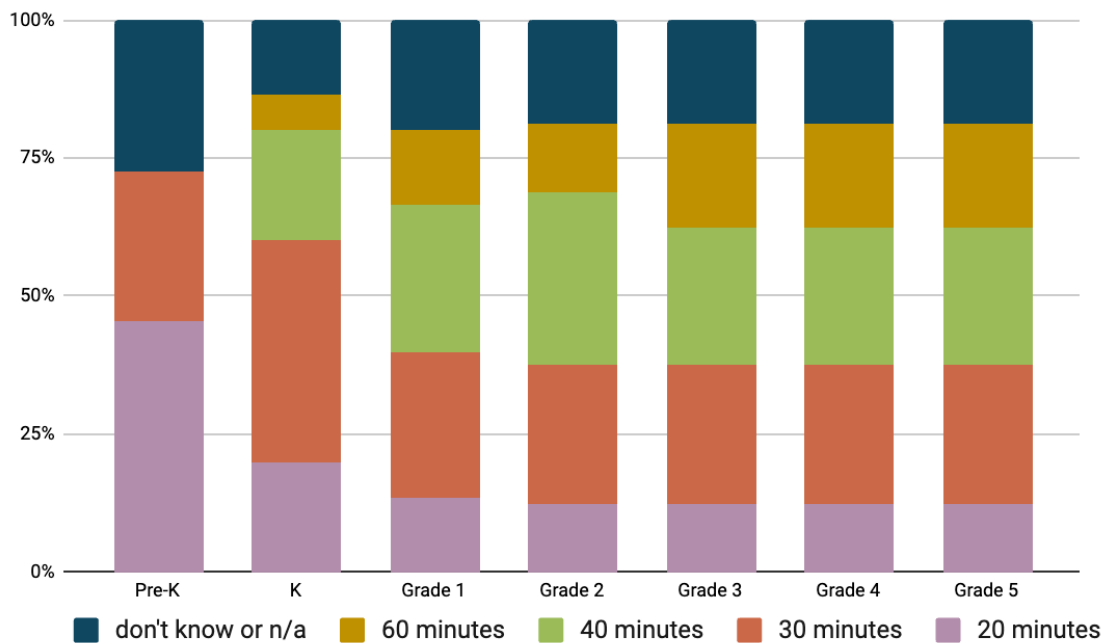
Times and length of ALL elementary art instruction per quarter or trimester (*examples reported by districts*)

Grade	District Responses
Pre-K	- Varies by site 10 hrs a quarter 45 hours per quarter (30 min Music/ Culture) 8 hours/quarter 12+ hours per Q - Twice 30 mins per week 0
K, 1	- Varies by site 10 hrs a quarter - Between 15-20 hrs per quarter 45 hours per quarter (30 min Music/ Culture) 9 hours/quarter 12+ hours per Q - Twice 20 times 1.5 hrs 30 mins per week 0 54 hours a semester, all elementary get 1 hour of music a week and 2 hours of art a month
Grades 2, 3, 4, 5	- Varies by site 10 hrs a quarter - Between 15-20 hours per quarter 45 hours per quarter (30 min Music/ Culture) 9 hours/quarter 12+ hours per Q - Twice 20 times 1.5 hrs 30 mins per week 0 - once a week for 45 minutes 54 hours a semester, all elementary get 1 hour of music a week and 2 hours of art a month

Number of districts reporting Visual or Performing Art elementary instruction (*not integrated with another subject*)

Grade	daily	weekly	two times per month	monthly	rarely	don't know or not offered
Pre-K	1	4	0	0	3	4
K	1	8	0	0	3	3
1	1	7	0	0	4	3
2	1	7	0	0	4	3
3	0	8	0	0	4	3
4	0	8	0	0	4	3
5	0	7	1	0	3	4

Typical length of time for elementary arts lessons,
percent of districts responses



Curriculum & Instruction: Secondary

Number of districts reporting consistent secondary (*middle and high school*) arts instruction (*last 4 years*)

Category	District Count
Visual Arts - drawing or painting	10
Music - band	8
Music - choir	8
Visual Arts - ceramics	7
Alaska Native Arts - fiber arts (<i>weaving, beading, skin sewing</i>)	7
Media Arts - digital arts	6
Music - guitar	5
Visual Arts - crafts	5
Visual Arts - photography	5
Alaska Native Arts - storytelling	5
Music - ukulele	4
Theatre - stage acting	4
Visual Arts - printmaking	4
Visual Arts - video or film production	4
Alaska Native Arts - carving	4
Music - orchestra	3
Theatre - technical theatre	3
Alaska Native Arts - sculpture (<i>ivory, wood, bone</i>)	3
Alaska Native Arts - dancing, drumming	3
Dance - jazz	2
Visual Arts - jewelry	2
Dance - ballet	1
Visual Art history	1
Music history	1
Alaska Native Arts - metals	1
AP Arts (<i>visual art, art history, music theory, music technology</i>)	1

Number of districts reporting assessment and feedback for secondary arts education

Category	District Count
Teacher developed assessments	12
Formative assessments	10
Project-based assessments	10
Exhibitions	9
Conferencing with individual students	4
Rubric form	4
Summative assessments	3
Portfolios	3
No assessments	2
Other (<i>example: All State music, visual arts competitions</i>)	2
District developed and required assessments	1
Don't Know	0

Number of districts reporting access to digital technology tools for secondary arts education

Category	District Count
Color printers	14
3D printers	13
Software (<i>Adobe, Garage Band, Finale, Autodesk, Maya, Blender, etc</i>)	9
Scanners	8
Digital drawing tablets	7
Fab labs	7
Laser engraving printers	5
ELMO (<i>document camera</i>)	3
Other (<i>please specify</i>)	2
MIDI keyboard labs	1
Opaque projectors	1
None of the above	0
Don't Know	0

Professional Development

Districts offered professional development activities or funds for professional development in the arts

Category	District Count
Artists in Schools workshops	7
District wide in-service(s)	6
Workshops with professional artists or arts groups	6
None	6
Building level in-service(s)	5
Large group presentations with visiting artists/performers/Elders	5
Online, self-directed professional development or training	2
Credit courses for teachers/staff focused on the arts	2
Other (<i>please specify</i>)	1
Professional learning communities (PLCs)	0
Don't Know	0

Greatest need for educator professional development in the arts

Category	District Count
Arts Integration and resources	10
Theatre	8
Alaska Native Arts (<i>e.g., traditional, contemporary, wood, metal, fiber arts, dancing, drumming</i>)	7
Other Cultural Arts	7
Connecting Instruction to the Arts Anchor Standards	7
Visual Arts	6
Dance	4
Music (<i>e.g., general, band, orchestra, choir</i>)	4
Media Arts	3
Other (<i>example: Current practices and trends in the arts, culturally responsive teaching</i>)	1

General Issues

Number of districts reporting area of strength in arts education

Category	District Count
Alaska Native Arts (e.g., traditional, contemporary, wood, metal, fiber arts, dancing, drumming)	8
Music (e.g., general, band, orchestra, choir)	7
Visual Arts	5
Dance	2
Media Arts	2
Theatre	1
Other Cultural Arts	1
Arts Integration	1
Other (please specify)	0

Challenges or obstacles districts report that interfere with arts instruction

Category	District Count
State or federal mandates (funded or unfunded)	11
Lack of resources to hire teachers	11
Budget shortfalls	10
Cost of shipping supplies	6
No time during school day	5
Population too small to hire arts teachers	5
Lack of applicants for arts positions	4
Facilities are inadequate	4
Lack of arts administrative coordinator	3
Lack of space	3
Access to teacher training and professional development	2
Poor bandwidth	2
Other (Arts advocacy in general, teaching non-arts admin about the importance of the arts, sustainability after grants)	2
Old technology	1
None	0
Lack of support from school board	0
Little if any interest from, or engagement by, community	0

Districts reporting greatest need in arts education

Category	District Count
Arts Resources	10
Certified Arts Staff	9
Teacher or Support Staff Professional Development	8
Community or Volunteer Support	7
Time Management or Scheduling	5
Curriculum	4
Other (<i>example: stable funding</i>)	4
Technology	2
Internet Access	0

District examples of on-going (*at least multi year*) partnerships with local or regional arts agencies or cultural organizations

- University of Alaska Southeast
- Sitka Fine Arts Camp
- Alaska State Council on the Arts
- Sealaska Heritage Institute
- Bristol Bay Region Career and Technical Education (BBRCTE)
- New Visions network
- Huna Heritage
- Hoonah Indian Association
- Rural Arts Initiative
- Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
- Anchorage Concert Association
- Anchorage Symphony
- Central Council of Tlingit & Haida
- Kodiak Arts Council
- Alutiiq Museum
- Kodiak History Museum
- Alaska Arts Education Consortium

Suggestions for ensuring that every Alaskan student has the opportunity to participate in the arts at every grade level

Category	Response Count
Funding (<i>consistent, BSA, grants, specific for small schools/districts</i>)	6
Resources (<i>supplies, networks, curriculum, professional development</i>)	4
Time (<i>needs to be dedicated</i>)	3
Staff (<i>administrator commitment, small schools/districts</i>)	3
Connections (<i>arts integration, cultural arts, partnerships, technology</i>)	3



Stay tuned for more information on <https://akartsed.org/projects/>

Contact the co-chairs of the Alaska Arts Ed Data Project:

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