

FY25 State of the Arts in Education in Alaskan Schools – District Survey

Instructions

This 30-question survey is designed to gather in-depth, aggregated district-level insights into the state of arts education across Alaska. It is based in the Alaska Arts Standards and considers arts and cultural arts holistically as well as specific content areas. The work is being conducted through a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Alaska State Council on the Arts to the Alaska Arts Education Consortium. This statewide data project will help communities understand how students do, or do not, have access to learning in and through the arts. In turn, the project hopes to enhance arts education in the state and improve data collection around arts education.

To this end, the survey may take longer than usual and involves information you may need to gather from others in your district before completing it. You can share the online survey with other administrators to complete sections, or you may gather the information using the checklist prior to going online. If you would like a [pdf of the survey](#) to gather the necessary information, please download it or request one from the Project Evaluator, Dr. Barbara Adams at badams.aas@gmail.com. You can come back to the survey as many times as needed and your information will be saved.

We envision this survey providing the baseline for our statewide understanding of current state of arts in education in Alaska schools from a district perspective. Results will be shared with arts organizations, legislators, statewide and national audiences. This is the same survey administered in FY24 that was completed by 18 districts. Data will be combined to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding.

Please plan on 30-45 minutes to complete the survey by **May 16, 2025** (or April 3, 2025 to be eligible for early bird drawing incentive).

Checklist

Information you will need to gather to complete this survey.

- Primary contact for completing the survey
- Personnel information specific to arts education
- Budget information specific to arts education
- Curriculum information specific to arts education, including policies on credits
- Instruction information specific to arts education - elementary and secondary
- Professional development information specific to arts education
- Information around partnerships with arts agencies or cultural organizations

Contact

If you have questions about the grant, please contact Principal Investigator (PI), Annie Calkins at anniecalkins@gmail.com. If you have questions specifically about the survey, please contact the Project Evaluator, Dr. Barbara Adams at badams.aas@gmail.com.

Incentive

As a thank you for your time and information, we are randomly drawing 3- \$500 cash prizes with the option to be used for a) arts supplies from Michael's or other vendor, b) travel or registration fees to attend a national arts education conference, or c) membership to an arts organization (National Art Education Association, National Music Education Association, or other). An early bird drawing will be conducted on April 4, 2025 (surveys completed by midnight 4/3/25) with the remaining drawings to be done on May 19, 2025.

Click the button below to start the survey. Thank you for your participation!

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Contact

Please share information on the person completing this survey on behalf of the School District.

1. Select your school district

2. Contact information for primary person completing this survey

Name

Title / Role

Email Address

Phone Number

3. Contact information for additional person completing this survey

Name

Title / Role

Email Address

Phone Number

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Personnel

This section aims to better understand the personnel capacity and resources available in and to your district.

4. Do you have funding allocated for certified arts teachers (include Type M, full-time, and part-time) in the following areas? (Leave blank for any unbudgeted positions.) Mark all that apply.

	Filled Positions	Current Vacancies
Dance	☐	☐
Music (e.g., general, band, orchestra, choir)	☐	☐
Theatre	☐	☐
Visual Arts	☐	☐
Media Arts	☐	☐
Alaska Native Arts (e.g., traditional, contemporary, wood, metal, fiber arts, dancing, drumming)	☐	☐
Other Cultural Arts	☐	☐

Additional comments if needed:

5. What is the total number of staff, certified and classified, who provide instruction in each arts area, whether elective or required, during the 24-25 school year in the following areas? (Please do not list staff FTE more than once.)

Dance	
Music	
Theatre	
Visual Arts	
Media Arts	
Alaska Native Arts	
Other Cultural Arts	

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Budget

This section aims to better understand the budget capacity and resources available in and to your district.

6. Does your school district have a separate budget allocation in your general fund (operating fund) for arts education?

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. What is the TOTAL allocation for arts education for the current school year in your school district and what is the direct source, as far as your know? Note: Do NOT count teacher salaries, non-district funds or one-time expenditures, like a new piano.

	state	federal	other	unsure
\$0 - we do not have an allocation for the arts	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$1 - \$5,000	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$5,001 - \$20,000	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$20,001 - \$40,000	☐	☐	☐	☐
\$40,001 - \$75,000	☐	☐	☐	☐
More than \$75,000	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

8. In the last 2 years, has your district received funding from an outside source to support arts education? Mark all that apply.

- ☐ Local or regional business or corporation
- ☐ Native Corporations or Native Corporation Non-Profit (example: Sealaska Heritage Institute/Goldbelt Heritage)
- ☐ PTA or Parent Group
- ☐ Alaska State Council on the Arts
- ☐ Alaska Arts Education Consortium
- ☐ Local arts council
- ☐ City or borough government
- ☐ Private foundation(s)
- ☐ Federal grants other than Title funding
- ☐ In kind or donations
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

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Curriculum

This section aims to better understand your district's curriculum context and requirements.

9. What is the minimum number of arts credits required in your district for graduation based on board policy?

10. Mark the content and grades for which the district has an approved or adopted arts curriculum.

	Pre-K	Grades K-2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Dance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Music (e.g., general, band, orchestra, choir)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Theatre	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Visual Arts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Media Arts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Alaska Native Arts (e.g., traditional, contemporary, wood, metal, fiber arts, dancing, drumming)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other Cultural Arts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

11. Is the district's curriculum aligned with the Alaska Arts Standards (Adopted under 4 AAC 04.140) and the associated Anchor Standards?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Comment:

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Instruction - Elementary Level

This section aims to better understand the arts instruction for elementary students in your district. Consider Pre-K and Grades K-5 when answering the Elementary Level questions.

12. Do ALL elementary students in the district have the opportunity to receive arts instruction in the following areas? Mark all that apply.

- ☐ Dance
- ☐ Music (e.g., general, band, orchestra, choir)
- ☐ Theatre
- ☐ Visual Arts
- ☐ Media Arts
- ☐ Alaska Native Arts (e.g., traditional, contemporary, wood, metal, fiber arts, dancing, drumming)
- ☐ Other Cultural Arts
- ☐ Comment:

13. For each content area marked 'yes' above, how many times a week and how long do students engage in arts education? For example: [Dance is offered] 3 times a week for a 45-minute period.

Dance	
Music	
Theatre	
Visual Arts	
Media Arts	
Alaska Native Arts	
Other Cultural Arts	

14. How much time does your district offer to elementary students (on average across your schools) for all arts education PER QUARTER or PER TRIMESTER (based on how your district operates)? Please specify frequency, duration, and any details that will help us understand.

Pre-K	
K	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

15. How often do elementary level students receive Visual or Performing Art instruction that is NOT integrated with another subject?

	daily	weekly	two times per month	monthly	rarely	don't know or not applicable
Pre-K	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
K	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

16. When students have an arts lesson in elementary grades, what is the typical amount of time for that arts lesson?

	20 minutes	30 minutes	40 minutes	60 minutes	don't know or not applicable
Pre-K	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
K	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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Instruction - Secondary Level

This section aims to better understand the arts instruction for secondary students in your district. Consider Grades 6-8 and 9-12 when addressing the Secondary level questions.

17. Has your district consistently offered classes in the following topics in at least one school over the last 4 years? Mark all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Dance - ballet | ☐ Visual Arts - jewelry |
| ☐ Dance - jazz | ☐ Visual Arts - photography |
| ☐ Music - guitar | ☐ Visual Arts - video or film production |
| ☐ Music - ukulele | ☐ Media Arts - digital arts |
| ☐ Music - band | ☐ Visual Art history |
| ☐ Music - orchestra | ☐ Music history |
| ☐ Music - choir | ☐ Alaska Native Arts - fiber arts (weaving, beading, skin sewing) |
| ☐ Theatre - stage acting | ☐ Alaska Native Arts - sculpture (ivory, wood, bone) |
| ☐ Theatre - technical theatre | ☐ Alaska Native Arts - carving |
| ☐ Visual Arts - drawing or painting | ☐ Alaska Native Arts - storytelling |
| ☐ Visual Arts - printmaking | ☐ Alaska Native Arts - metals |
| ☐ Visual Arts - ceramics | ☐ Alaska Native Arts - dancing, drumming |
| ☐ Visual Arts - crafts | ☐ AP Arts (visual art, art history, music theory) |

☐ Add more details here if you wish.

18. In what ways do you measure progress and provide feedback to students in the Visual and Performing Arts in your district? Mark all that apply.

☐ District developed and required assessments

☐ Teacher developed assessments

☐ Formative assessments

☐ Summative assessments

☐ Project-based assessments

☐ Conferencing with individual students

☐ Rubric form

☐ Exhibitions

☐ Portfolios

☐ Don't Know

☐ Other (please specify)

☐ No assessments

19. Do your students have access to use any of the following **DIGITAL** technology tools to assist in the study and creation of the arts? Mark all that apply.

☐ MIDI keyboard labs

☐ Digital drawing tablets

☐ Scanners

☐ Color printers

☐ ELMO (document camera)

☐ 3D printers

☐ Laser engraving printers

☐ Software (Adobe, Garage Band, Finale, Autodesk, Maya, Blender, etc)

☐ Fab labs

☐ Opaque projectors

☐ Don't Know

☐ Other (please specify)

☐ None of the above

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Professional Development

This section aims to better understand the professional development capacity and resources available in and to your district.

20. In the previous school year did the district offer any of the following professional development activities or funds for professional development in the arts? Mark all that apply.

- ☐ District wide in-service(s)
- ☐ Building level in-service(s)
- ☐ Professional learning communities (PLCs)
- ☐ Online, self-directed professional development or training
- ☐ Workshops with professional artists or arts groups
- ☐ Artists in Schools workshops
- ☐ Credit courses for teachers/staff focused on the arts
- ☐ Large group presentations with visiting artists/performers/Elders
- ☐ Don't Know
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

21. Does your district's strategic plan reference the arts?

- ☐ Directly
- ☐ Indirectly
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ Not at all

22. Which areas have the greatest need for educator professional development in the arts in your district? Mark all that apply.

- ☐ Dance
- ☐ Music (e.g., general, band, orchestra, choir)
- ☐ Theatre
- ☐ Visual Arts
- ☐ Media Arts
- ☐ Alaska Native Arts (e.g., traditional, contemporary, wood, metal, fiber arts, dancing, drumming)
- ☐ Other Cultural Arts
- ☐ Arts Integration and resources
- ☐ Connecting Instruction to the Arts Anchor Standards
- ☐ Other (please specify)

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General Issues

This section includes a few additional general questions about arts education in your district to help understand strengths and identify areas where the state and others can help bolster opportunities and resources.

23. In what area or discipline of the arts is your district especially strong? Mark all that apply.

- ☐ Dance
- ☐ Music (e.g., general, band, orchestra, choir)
- ☐ Theatre
- ☐ Visual Arts
- ☐ Media Arts
- ☐ Alaska Native Arts (e.g., traditional, contemporary, wood, metal, fiber arts, dancing, drumming)
- ☐ Other Cultural Arts
- ☐ Arts Integration
- ☐ Other (please specify)

24. What is your district's greatest need in and around arts education? Mark all that apply.

- ☐ Teacher or Support Staff Professional Development
- ☐ Certified Arts Staff
- ☐ Curriculum
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Arts Resources
- ☐ Internet Access
- ☐ Time Management or Scheduling
- ☐ Community or Volunteer Support
- ☐ Other (please specify)

25. What challenges or obstacles does your district face that interfere with arts instruction?
Mark all that apply.

- ☐ State or federal mandates (funded or unfunded)
- ☐ Lack of applicants for arts positions
- ☐ Lack of arts administrative coordinator
- ☐ Access to teacher training and professional development
- ☐ Lack of space
- ☐ Lack of support from school board
- ☐ Lack of resources to hire teachers
- ☐ Little if any interest from, or engagement by, community or communities
- ☐ No time during school day
- ☐ Population too small to hire arts teachers
- ☐ Cost of shipping supplies
- ☐ Poor bandwidth
- ☐ Old technology
- ☐ Budget shortfalls
- ☐ Facilities are inadequate
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

26. Does your district have on-going (at least multi year) partnerships with local or regional arts agencies or cultural organizations that help meet the district’s arts education goals? If so, please list up to 3 of those agencies or organizations.

27. List any schools in your district that have well known or outstanding arts programs.

28. List any school administrators who have an arts background or strong interests in or support for the arts.

29. What suggestions do you have for ensuring that every Alaskan student has the opportunity to participate in the arts at every grade level?

30. Do you have any feedback on this survey, specifically ideas to add or delete?