



A 2025 SNAPSHOT of the arts IN ALASKAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

based on district survey responses

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.

The survey was conducted from January 13, 2025 through May 16, 2025 and received complete data from 42 districts out of a total of 53 districts, providing a participation rate of 79% of districts. At the student enrollment level these districts account for about 90% of students across the state Pre-K through 12th grade. All five general regions of the state are represented – north, interior, southwest, southcentral, and southeast. All questions were optional; response totals may vary.



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

Contact the Alaska Arts Ed Data Project:

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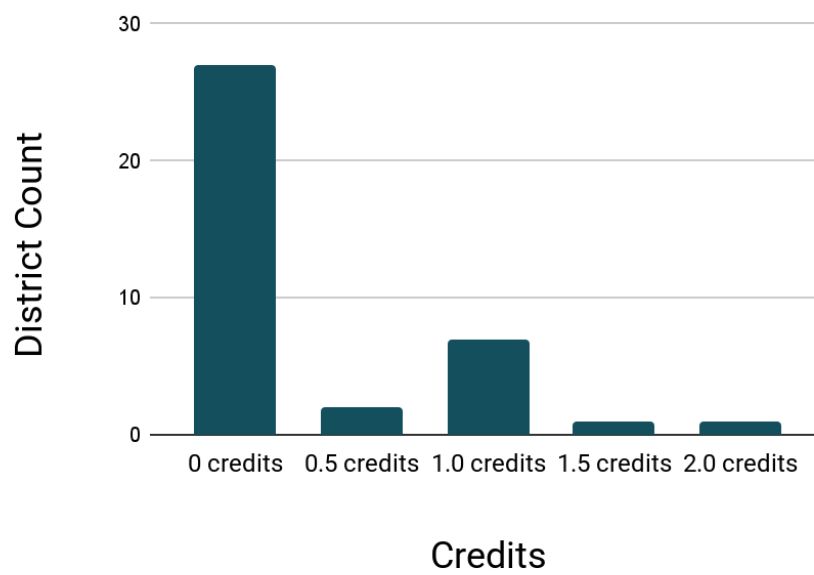
Policy

Number of districts reporting arts are referenced in their strategic plan

Category	District Count
Directly	2
Indirectly	19
Don't know	3
Other (Examples: Our board goal of college, career, and life ready directly references the arts; "Increase student participation in activities")	6
Not at all	12

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

CATEGORY	DISTRICT COUNT
0 credits	27
0.5 credits	2
1.0 credits	7
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	1
Music	19	3
Theatre	8	1
Visual Arts	17	3
Media Arts	10	1
Alaska Native Arts	17	3
Other Cultural Arts	4	1

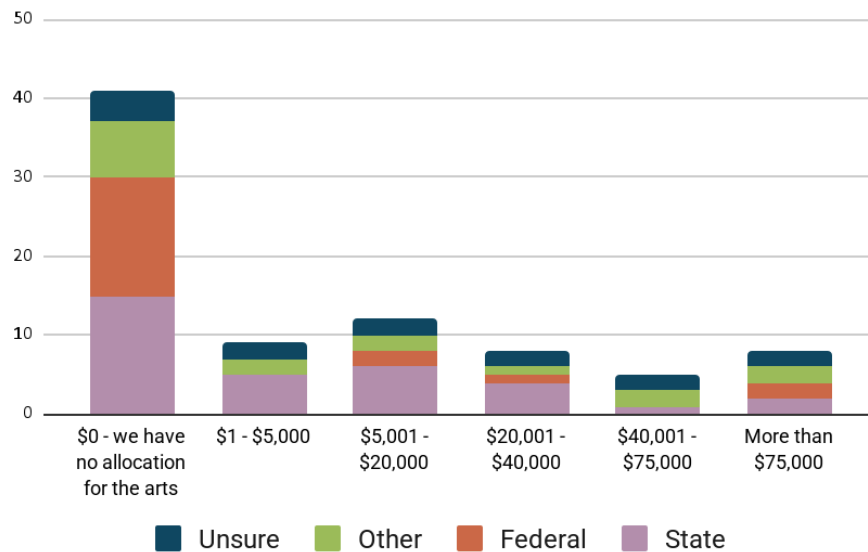
Total number of staff (certified and classified) providing instruction in the arts (elective or required)

Category	Districts with 1 FTE	Districts with 2 FTE	Districts with 3 FTE	Districts with 4 FTE or more
Dance	1	0	1	0
Music	10	5	1	8
Theatre	7	0	0	2
Visual Arts	10	4	0	5
Media Arts	7	1	0	2
Alaska Native Arts	16	2	1	3
Other Cultural Arts	1	1	1	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	15	15	7	4
\$1 - \$5,000	5	0	2	2
\$5,001 - \$20,000	6	2	2	2
\$20,001 - \$40,000	4	1	1	2
\$40,001 - \$75,000	1	0	2	2
More than \$75,000	2	2	2	2

Allocation for arts education outside of staff salaries (7 out of 42 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
None of the above	13
Native Corporations or Native Corporation Non-Profit (example: Sealaska Heritage Institute/Goldbelt Heritage)	12
Alaska State Council on the Arts (example: New Visions Arts Grant)	10
Alaska Arts Education Consortium	5
Federal grants other than Title funding	5
PTA or Parent Group	5
Local or regional business or corporation	4
In Kind or Donations	4
Local arts council	3
Private foundation(s)	3
Other	3

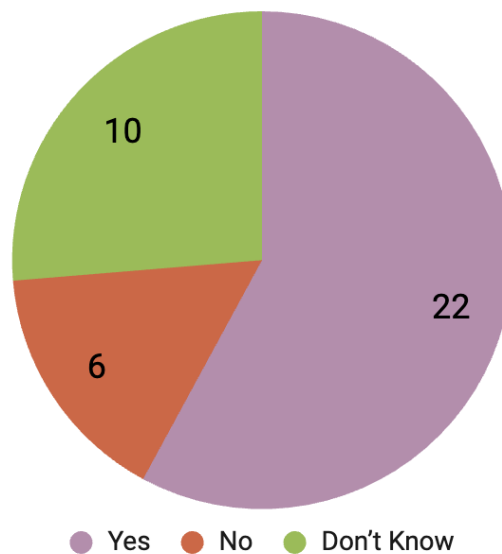
Curriculum & Instruction: Elementary

Number of districts reporting approved or adopted arts curriculum

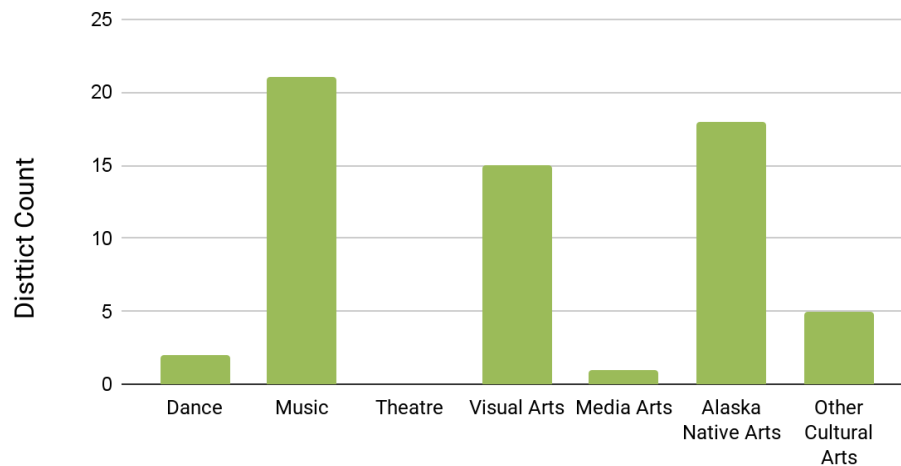
Category	Pre-K	Grades K-2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Dance	0	3	3	4	7
Music	3	15	15	16	19
Theatre	0	2	2	3	7
Visual Arts	3	13	13	15	15
Media Arts	1	3	3	5	11
Alaska Native Arts	1	4	5	5	12
Other Cultural Arts	0	0	0	0	3

Districts reporting curriculum aligned with Alaska Arts Standards (Adopted under 4 AAC 04.140) and the associated Anchor Standards

Category	District Count
Yes	22
No	6
Don't Know	10



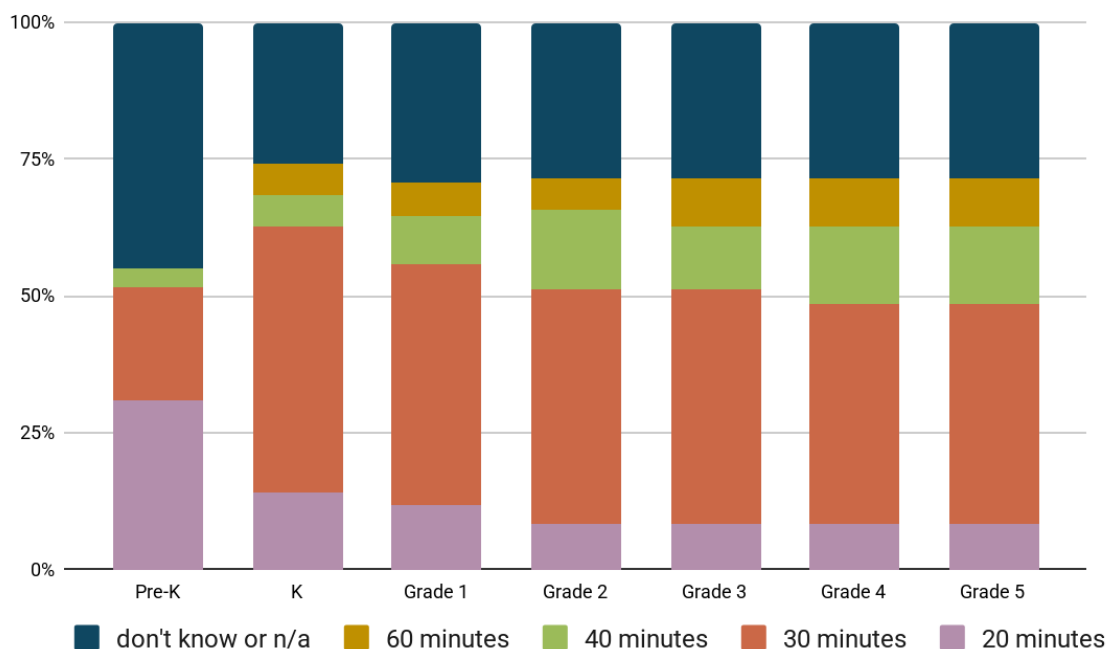
Number of districts reporting that ALL elementary students have opportunities to receive arts instruction



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

Category	District Responses
Dance	varies
Music	ranges from 30 minutes a day to 30 minutes a week to 20 days per year
Theatre	none reported
Visual Arts	- ranges from 30 minutes a day to 30 minutes a week to 2 times a month for 60 minutes - dependent upon classroom teacher
Media Arts	5 times a week for 30 mins (could be visual or media)
Alaska Native Arts	- ranges from 30 minutes a day to 3 hours a semester to seasonal - integrated with instructional content
Other Cultural Arts	5 times a week

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



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	5	0	1	7	16
K	2	12	1	0	8	14
1	2	11	1	0	9	14
2	2	11	1	0	9	14
3	1	12	1	0	9	14
4	1	12	1	0	9	14
5	1	11	2	0	7	15

Curriculum & Instruction: Secondary

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

Category	District Count
Music - band	23
Music - choir	21
Visual Arts - drawing or painting	20
Visual Arts - ceramics	18
Music - guitar	14
Media Arts - digital arts	14
Alaska Native Arts - fiber arts (weaving, beading, skin sewing)	13
Visual Arts - photography	12
Alaska Native Arts - carving	12
Theatre - stage acting	10
Alaska Native Arts - sculpture (ivory, wood, bone)	10
Visual Arts - printmaking	9
Visual Arts - crafts	9
Visual Arts - video or film production	9
Music - orchestra	8
Music - ukulele	7
Alaska Native Arts - dancing, drumming	6
Theatre - technical theatre	5
Alaska Native Arts - storytelling	5
Visual Arts - jewelry	3
Visual Art history	3
Music history	3
AP Arts (visual art, art history, music theory)	3
Dance - jazz	2
Alaska Native Arts - metals	2
Dance - ballet	1

Number of districts reporting assessment and feedback for secondary arts education

Category	District Count
Teacher developed assessments	25
Project-based assessments	17
Exhibitions	16
Formative assessments	15
Conferencing with individual students	12
Summative assessments	10
Rubric form	10
Portfolios	9
No assessments	7
District developed and required assessments	3
Don't Know	1

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

Category	District Count
Color printers	31
3D printers	29
Software (<i>Adobe, Garage Band, Finale, Autodesk, Maya, Blender, etc</i>)	22
Scanners	21
Laser engraving printers	17
Fab labs	13
Digital drawing tablets	12
ELMO (<i>document camera</i>)	12
Other	4
None of the above	3
MIDI keyboard labs	2
Don't Know	1
Opaque projectors	1

Professional Development

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

Category	District Count
None of the above	15
Artists in Schools workshops	10
District wide in-service(s)	9
Workshops with professional artists or arts groups	9
Online, self-directed professional development or training	8
Building level in-service(s)	7
Professional learning communities (PLCs)	6
Large group presentations with visiting artists/performers/Elders	6
Credit courses for teachers/staff focused on the arts	5
Don't Know	3
Other (please specify)	3

Greatest need for educator professional development in the arts

Category	District Count
Arts Integration and resources	21
Alaska Native Arts (e.g., traditional, contemporary, wood, metal, fiber arts, dancing, drumming)	18
Other Cultural Arts	15
Connecting Instruction to the Alaska Arts Anchor Standards	12
Music (e.g., general, band, orchestra, choir)	11
Visual Arts	10
Theatre	9
Media Arts	6
Dance	5
Other (example: Current practices and trends in the arts, culturally responsive teaching)	2

General Issues

Number of districts reporting area of strength in arts education

Category	District Count
Music (e.g., general, band, orchestra, choir)	21
Visual Arts	15
Alaska Native Arts (e.g., traditional, contemporary, wood, metal, fiber arts, dancing, drumming)	14
Theatre	5
Media Arts	5
Other Cultural Arts	4
Dance	2
Arts Integration	1
Other	1

Challenges or obstacles districts report that interfere with arts instruction

Category	District Count
State or federal mandates (funded or unfunded)	24
Lack of resources to hire teachers	23
Budget shortfalls	23
No time during school day	12
Population too small to hire arts teachers	12
Cost of shipping supplies	11
Lack of applicants for arts positions	10
Lack of arts administrative coordinator	8
Access to teacher training and professional development	8
Other	6
Facilities are inadequate	5
Lack of space	3
Little if any interest from, or engagement by, community or communities	3
Poor bandwidth	2
Old technology	2
Lack of support from school board	1
None of the above	0

Districts reporting greatest need in arts education

Category	District Count
Certified Arts Staff	19
Teacher or Support Staff Professional Development	15
Arts Resources	15
Community or Volunteer Support	11
Other	10
Time Management or Scheduling	9
Curriculum	8
Technology	3
Internet Access	0

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

- **Alaska State Council on the Arts**
- **Alaska Arts Education Consortium**
- **Sealaska Heritage Institute**
- **New Visions Network**
- **Local Arts Councils and Associations**
(Fairbanks Arts Association, Juneau Arts and Humanities Council, Kodiak Arts Council, Anchorage Concert Association, Anchorage Symphony)
- **Native Tribes and Associations** (Chilkoot Indian Association, Chilkat Indian Village, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Organized Village of Kasaan, Fairbanks Native Association)
- **Rural Arts Initiative**
- **Kids in Motion**
- **University of Alaska Southeast**
- **Sitka Fine Arts Camp**
- **Regional or Community Organizations**
(Bristol Bay Region CTE, Goldbelt, public recreation center, Alutiiq Museum, Kodiak History Museum, National Parks Service)
- **Private Artist Contractors**

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>)	17
Resources (<i>supplies, networks, curriculum, professional development, certificates</i>)	11
Commitment (<i>prioritize, strategic plan, required arts</i>)	8
Time (<i>needs to be dedicated, classroom schedules</i>)	4
Staff (<i>dedicated FTE, small schools/districts</i>)	4
Connections (<i>arts integration, cultural arts, partnerships, technology</i>)	2