A decorative background featuring a silhouette of the state of California in yellow, with blue and gold musical notes and staves flowing across the dark blue background.

FEBRUARY 12, 2026



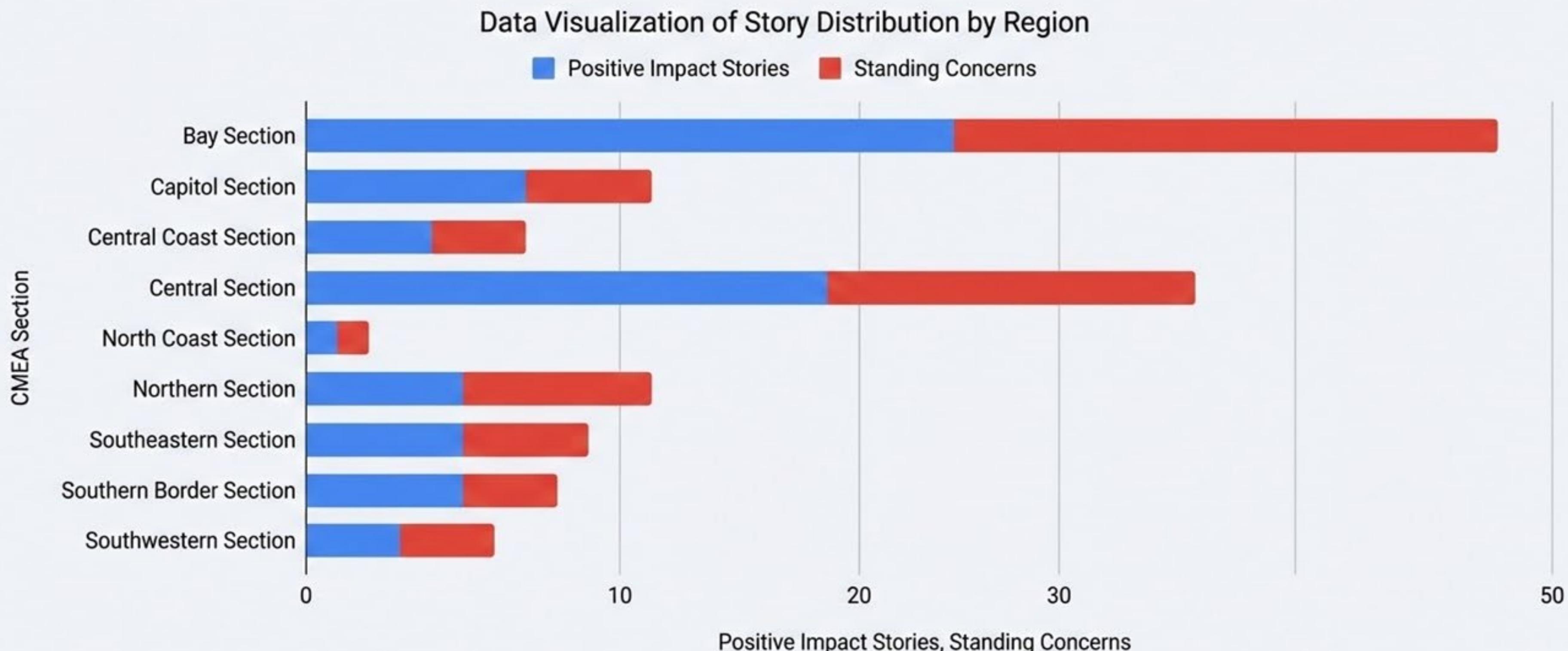
IMPLEMENTING PROP 28 ARTS EDUCATION FUNDING

INFORMATIONAL HEARING

MUSIC

Comparison of Positive Impact Stories and Standing Concerns by CMEA Section

Data Visualization of Story Distribution by Region





POSITIVE OUTCOMES

- **PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE**

THE FUNDS HAVE SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF NEW VAPA (VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS) COORDINATOR POSITIONS, INDICATING A GROWTH IN ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS.



MUSIC



POSITIVE OUTCOMES

INCREASED STAFFING



MULTIPLE DISTRICTS
REPORTED USING THE FUNDS
TO HIRE NEW PERSONNEL,
INCLUDING



ELEMENTARY
ART TEACHERS,



NEW MUSIC TEACHERS,
AND EVEN A STAFF PIANIST,



MIDDLE SCHOOL
DRAMA TEACHER,



IN ONE CASE, A SMALL, RURAL
DISTRICT WAS ABLE TO OFFER
MUSIC FOR TK-12 FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN ITS HISTORY.

MUSIC



POSITIVE OUTCOMES

RESOURCE ACQUISITION

OUTSIDE OF PERSONNEL, THE FUNDING IS SUCCESSFULLY BEING USED FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING NECESSARY SUPPLIES, INCLUDING INSTRUMENTS, MUSIC, TECHNOLOGY, AND NEW INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES.



MUSIC

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

ADMINISTRATIVE ROADBLOCKS AND CONFUSION



SUSTAINABILITY (long-term availability of the funds)



FEARS OF DIVERSION or the money being used for non-arts purposes (e.g., for math, core subjects, or general budget shortfalls)



GENERAL LACK OF CLARITY on how the money is legally supposed to be allocated

ADMINISTRATIVE
ROADBLOCKS

FUNDS

?

?

?

?

?

CONFUSION



IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- NEED FOR CENTRALIZED GUIDANCE
THE LACK OF CLARITY AROUND FUNDING
RULES IS EVIDENT, WITH ONE
RESPONSE ASKING ABOUT THE WAIVER
PROCESS FOR USING PERSONNEL
FUNDS FOR EQUIPMENT,
HIGHLIGHTING A NEED FOR CLEARER
ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE.





My primary standing concern is that AMS (Prop 28) funds may have been used to supplant rather than supplement existing arts and music funding. There is concern that Prop 28 funds have been applied toward covering current arts and music teaching positions that were previously supported through the general fund, rather than expanding or enhancing programs as intended by the legislation.

Additionally, there appears to be limited transparency and clarity at the site level regarding funding sources, staffing classifications, and how Prop 28 allocations were implemented. Without clear communication or an external audit, it is difficult for site educators to verify compliance with the supplement-not-supplant requirement or to understand how these funds have tangibly increased access, staffing, or resources for students. Greater transparency and accountability would help address these concerns and build trust in the implementation of Prop 28 funding.



IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

ADMINISTRATIVE ROADBLOCKS AND CONFUSION

- HOW LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND ADMINISTRATION ARE MANAGING THE FUNDS. ISSUES MENTIONED INCLUDE:
 - FUNDS BEING HELD OR UNSPENT BY THE DISTRICT,
 - LACK OF TRANSPARENCY OR COMMUNICATION REGARDING PLANS,
 - GENERAL BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES TO ACCESSING OR UTILIZING THE MONEY.





There is a lack of consistency from District to District and even school to school in how those funds are utilized. While there should be some adherence to traditional needs and support - if there are no pre-existing supportive pillars in place, it is likely the funding is being mis-directed or abused.

Within our district, for example, Admin. is using some of the funding to pay pre-existing stipends once built into the district budget (e.g. choir, band director, theater and dance stipends once paid by the district are now being paid through Prop 28).

The intent of Prop 28 is to not supplant pre-existing funding, but to further advance.



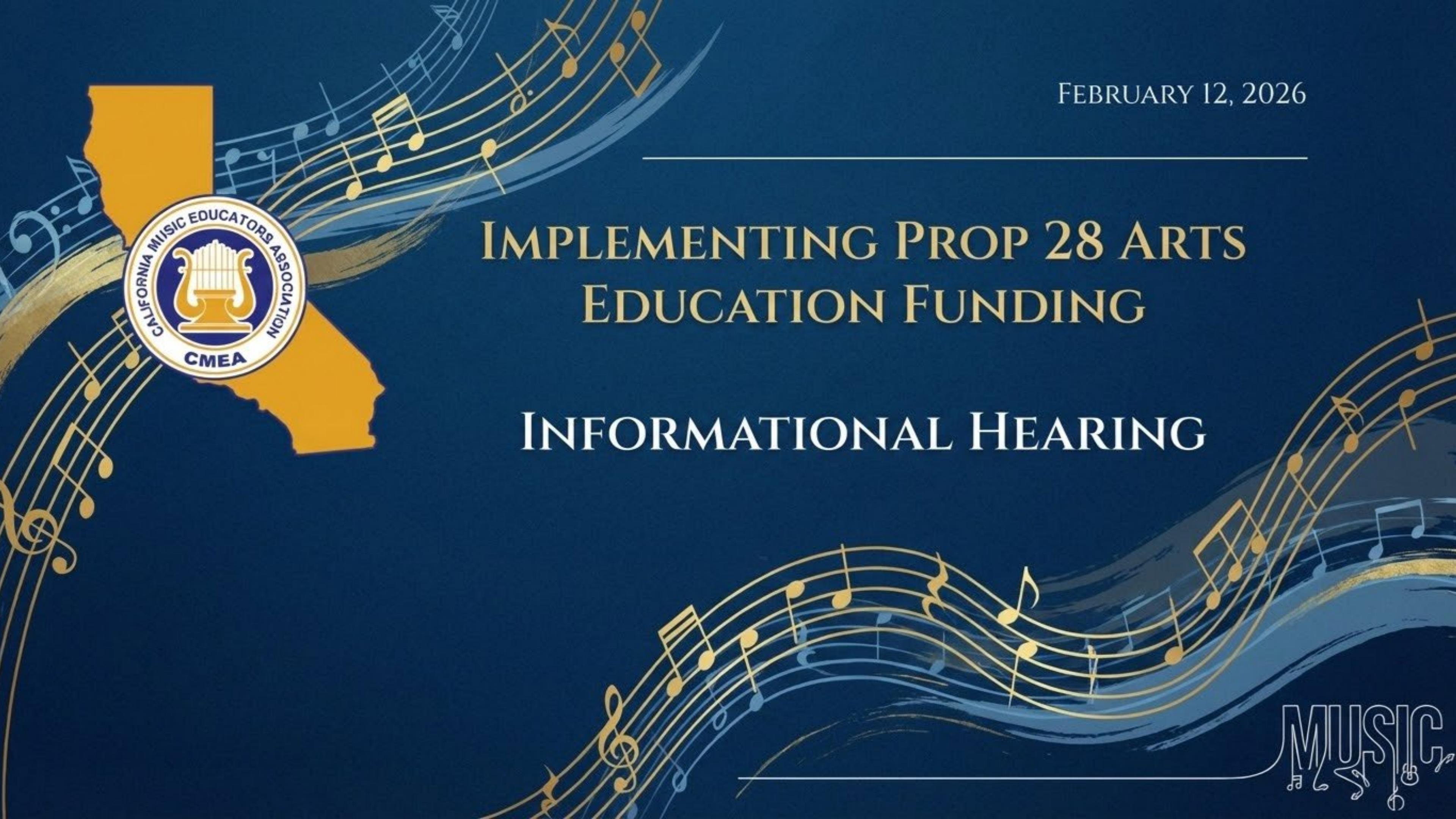
There is no one educating district admin or site admin on how prop 28 works and how to use it. They are the gatekeepers. Prop 28 money is going to waste or is being used and taken by admin for other purposes. This is not right, putting money for the arts into the hands of those who do not know how to use it.



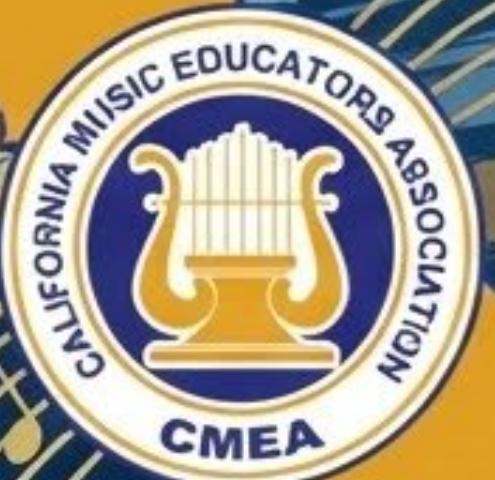
Arts and Music in Schools

CMEA Resource Page





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