

Proposition 28 Implementation

Since the implementation of Proposition 28 in 2023–24, LBUSD has significantly expanded and strengthened arts education across all grade spans. Building on decades of investment in elementary music education and strong secondary VAPA programs, Prop 28 provided a historic opportunity to increase access, advance equity, and align arts education with districtwide priorities for culturally responsive and sustaining pedagogy.

How the Arts Are Different Since Prop 28

- Expanded elementary arts access beyond longstanding General and Instrumental Music programs to include Art, Dance, and Theater for the first time districtwide.
- Conducted a spring 2023 equity audit, aligned with BP 0415 (Funding Equity Policy), to identify and address disparities in staffing and access across schools.
- Hired 41 new elementary and 15 new certificated secondary VAPA teachers to deliver discipline-specific instruction, expand course access and support program continuity.
- Established a new classified role, Arts Walk-On Coach, with 120+ coaches hired over the past three years to support classroom implementation and program sustainability.

Advancing Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Pedagogy

LBUSD's Arts Mission is to provide every student with access to a balanced, sequential arts program that nurtures the whole child through joyful, intellectually rich learning experiences. Prop 28 has amplified this mission by:

- Ensuring universal access to arts education regardless of school location or reliance on PTA or other parent/community resources.
- Positioning the arts as a core means of student meaning-making and expression.
- Supporting arts programs that reflect and sustain the identities, cultures, and lived experiences of LBUSD's diverse student population and communities.
 - Developed this [LBUSD Arts Resources – Cultural & Community Arts Organizations](#) document for school assemblies and cultural events

Alignment With the District Arts Strategic Plan

Prop 28's guaranteed funding model, combined with expanded staffing and established district programs, created the conditions to launch LBUSD's [LBUSD 5-Year Strategic Arts Plan](#). The plan:

- Builds on LBUSD's strong arts foundation.
- Aligns with district vision, values, and long-term goals.
- Responds to current momentum while addressing systemic challenges.
- Prioritizes inclusive growth, cultural relevance, and sustainable staffing models.

Together, Prop 28 and the Strategic Arts Plan support LBUSD's commitment to delivering meaningful, equitable, and accessible arts education for every student.

Implementation Challenges & Compliance

- "Supplement vs. Supplant" considerations – declining enrollment, reduced resources, and deficit spending require careful fiscal strategy
- Staffing capacity – While many California districts have faced staffing shortages under Prop 28, LBUSD has not due to a long-standing partnership with CSU Long Beach, a major producer of art and music educators
- LBUSD is committed to transparency, documentation, and statutory compliance