

California Proposition 28 Arts and Music Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act

Initial Impact on Arts Organizations

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Executive Summary

In 2022, California voters passed Proposition 28 (Prop 28), the Arts and Music (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act, which established annual funding (ranging from \$938 million to over \$1 billion) for arts education for all schools across the state. This first-of-its-kind legislation provides a permanent funding source dedicated to arts education for California's public school students. WestEd, in partnership with Create CA, received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to study the initial impact of these funds on the state's arts education landscape.

This research included surveying staff from schools, districts, county offices of education, and arts organizations across the state to understand the initial impact of this funding. This report focuses on and begins to explore how community arts organizations in California were impacted by Prop 28 AMS funding. Research questions guiding this work examined how Prop 28 AMS funds expanded access to arts education for students in California, what has facilitated or created barriers for some students to access the arts, and what other factors might be needed to ensure access to arts education. A mixed-methods approach was utilized, comprising exploratory interviews, surveys, and supplemental quantitative data collection.

KEY FINDINGS REGARDING IMPACTS ON ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

- Confusion remains at the school and district level related to allowable expenses under Prop 28 AMS, which resulted in less funding directed toward community arts organizations.
- Community arts organizations must shift their services and programs offered to stay relevant to and engaged with schools and districts.
- Thus far, community arts organizations have been negatively impacted by Prop 28 AMS because of the requirement for most schools and districts to spend 80% of funds on staffing; however, many foresee Prop 28 AMS helping a greater number of students gain access to the arts in the long run.