

**THE ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM AT
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
IMPROVING ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to:

- **Appropriate \$40 million for the Arts in Education programs in the FY 2012 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The Arts in Education program is authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.**
- **Retain the Arts in Education program as a distinct grant competition.**

Arts in Education Annual Appropriations, FY 2002 to present (in millions of dollars)

Fiscal Year	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11
Appropriation	30.0	33.8	35.1	35.6	35.3	35.3	37.3	38.1	40	TBD

Note: Figures above are not adjusted for inflation. Source: U.S. Department of Education

TALKING POINTS

- **The Arts in Education program at the U.S. Department of Education supports newly emerging education models in high-poverty schools that improve arts learning.**
 - *Model Development and Dissemination grants* strengthen student learning through standards-based arts education and integration of arts instruction into other subject areas. The program has funded a total of 158 projects, identifying models of excellence in arts education that impact schools and communities nationwide.
 - *Professional Development for Arts Educators grants* identify innovative models that improve instruction for arts specialists and classroom teachers. The Professional Development grants program has supported 52 projects that serve as national models for effective arts education professional development.
 - *Evaluation and National Dissemination* multiplies the impact of this federal investment. State and local education agencies can adapt these models to provide rigorous arts instruction for all students.
 - The Arts in Education program supports the efforts of *VSA* to ensure the participation of people with disabilities in arts programming in schools and communities, and *The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts'* ongoing national arts education initiatives.
- **Any reduction below \$40 million would result in under-funding multiyear projects that are midstream.** Arts in Education funds will provide unique federal support to leverage the capacity of the arts to sustain and enhance creativity and innovation in learning, and dissemination of findings from model projects may be more widely disseminated. The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations subcommittee approved \$42 million in FY 2011 Arts in Education funding.
- **When the U.S. Department of Education makes direct grants through the Arts in Education program fund, it is exercising a critical form of federal leadership, strengthening the arts as a core academic subject of learning.** This federal commitment to improving equitable access to arts education should not be compromised by consolidation. Any major restructuring of the Arts in Education programs should be carefully considered in the context of ESEA reauthorization.
- **Arts in Education programs create model initiatives and partnerships that are significantly impacting large numbers of students and educators. Arts in Education grants have served 217 congressional districts.**
 - Through a four-year, \$1.15 million grant under the 2010 Model Development & Dissemination program, Wolf Trap Education will partner with Fairfax County Public Schools and the American Institute for Research to develop, evaluate, and disseminate arts-based science, technology, English, and math (STEM) teaching strategies for pre-K and kindergarten. This project will both advance arts learning and have a profound impact toward achieving STEM-related education goals for young children.

TALKING POINTS (CONTINUED)

- Supported by a Model Development grant, the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) launched a program in 2008 designed to improve the academic achievement of 3,000 low-income, English Language Learner (ELL), third- and fourth-grade students in North San Diego County. Partnering with other area arts and professional organizations, SDCOE is training teachers from 70 eligible schools to increase educator proficiency using visual arts and theater in statewide ELL standards.
- A 2008 Professional Development grant is supporting the formation of a new fine arts partnership between the Wichita Public Schools and Wichita State University. The partnership will provide arts educators staff development focused on standards-based music instruction for students in Wichita public schools with 50 percent poverty or more. Ninety-one teachers serving an estimated 23,000 students are expected to become active participants.
- **Funding to VSA and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and supports national networks that ensure the inclusion of students with disabilities and other underserved populations.** These networks provide for the expansion of model programs in all 50 states involving more than 16 million students. National initiatives include: educational programs from early childhood through grade 12, strategies to include students with disabilities, professional development for teachers and administrators, and documentation of the social and academic progress from learning in an arts-rich environment.
- **As reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is in progress, immediate action by the U.S. Department of Education can improve arts learning opportunities.** The following actions by the U.S. Department of Education and the Obama administration can improve arts learning opportunities:
 - ***Provide leadership in support of arts education*** through policy action and public statements confirming the value of the arts and arts education, with particular emphasis on the benefits of arts learning for students from disadvantaged circumstances and those needing remedial instruction in other subjects.
 - ***Maximize the impact of the direct federal investment in arts education*** by immediately disseminating information about the outcomes of projects funded by the Arts in Education grant programs, which cultivate innovation in arts education and spur increased local support for equitable access to arts education.

BACKGROUND

At the time of publication, the FY 2011 Arts in Education program was level funded at \$40 million.

The president's budget request proposes consolidating the Arts in Education program into a new, broader funding pool entitled "Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well-Rounded Education." The consolidation would merge funding for a wide range of subjects of learning, and the budget proposal does not indicate exactly how or how much of this funding would be available to support arts education. Communities representing all of the subjects of learning that would be consolidated are in opposition to the proposal, as it would diminish direct competition and federal leadership for each of these essential subjects of learning.

At a January 24, 2011 forum, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said, "The biggest complaint I've heard from students, themselves, from teachers, and from parents, was the narrowing of the curriculum in No Child Left Behind. So, yes, reading and math are hugely important, but science, social studies, foreign language, fine and performing arts, environmental literacy, financial literacy, PE, our children deserve a lot more than what they're getting today." As Congress and the administration work toward rewriting the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), support for arts education can be strengthened by immediate action taken through the annual appropriations process and by leaders at the U.S. Department of Education.