

# THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER AMERICA

## FUNDING THE ASSISTANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IMPROVING ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

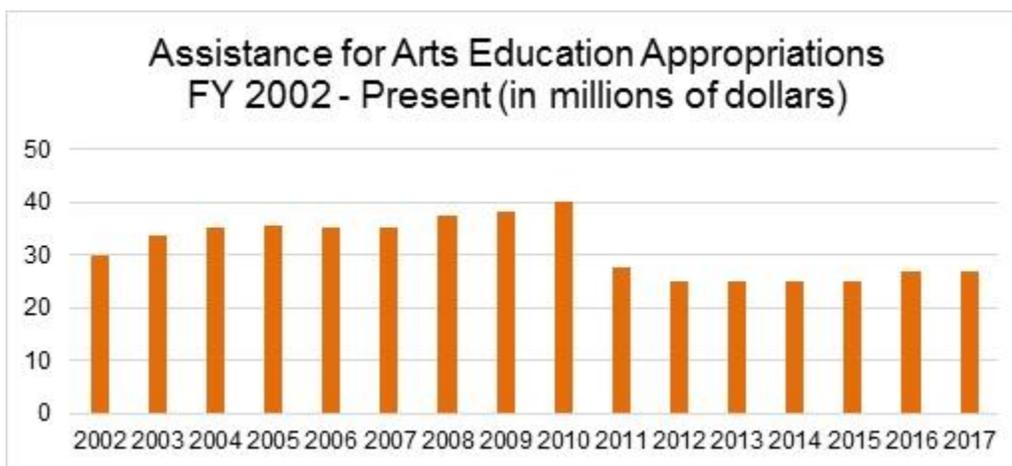
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### ACTION NEEDED

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We urge Congress to:

- Appropriate \$30 million for the Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) programs in the FY 2019 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The Assistance for Arts Education program is authorized under Title IV of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*.



### TALKING POINTS

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- Student learning is strengthened through standards-based arts education and integration of arts instruction into other subject areas supported by **Arts Education Model Development and Dissemination (AEMDD) grants**. The program has funded a total of 185 projects, including rigorous evaluation of arts education strategies that can impact schools and communities nationwide.
- Innovative models to improve instruction for arts specialists and classroom teachers are supported by **Professional Development for Arts Educators (PDAE) grants**. The PDAE grants program has supported over 100 projects that serve as national models for effective arts education professional development.
- The impact of these federal investments is multiplied by the program's **Evaluation and National Dissemination** component. For example, In FY 2009, the program exceeded its performance measure in both mathematics and language arts. In math, 12 percent more students achieved the achievement target goal in the grant program group than in the comparison group. and in Language Arts/Reading, 54 percent more students in the grant program than in the comparison group achieved the target goal. State and local education agencies can adapt these models to provide rigorous arts instruction for all students.

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- National level, high-quality arts education projects and programs for children and youth, with special emphasis on serving students from low-income families and students with disabilities, are supported by a *National Program Competition*.

**A reduction below the current level of Arts Education funding would result in under-funding multi-year projects that are midstream.** Grant awards support projects over the course of up to four years. Cuts to funding would place these projects in extreme jeopardy.

## TALKING POINTS (CONTINUED)

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**U.S. Department of Education directs grants through the Assistance for Arts Education program to strengthen the arts as part of a well-rounded education. Arts Education grants have served more than 230 congressional districts in 33 states, including these examples.**

- The Clayton County, Georgia School District's four year FY 2017 Professional Development grant of \$1.2 million will provide professional development training to fine arts and math teachers designed to improve teacher practice and raise math scores on state tests. Partnering with ArtsNow, Crayola, and the Georgia Institute of Technology, the first year of the project will train all assigned arts (grade 4-9) educators in teacher leadership and math content knowledge specific to the grade levels of their schools.
- Metro Nashville Public Schools was awarded a \$1.2 million FY 2017 Professional Development Grant in a collaboration titled, "Music and Art City" to provide professional development for all visual arts and music teachers at the 55 Title I elementary schools in the district. The grant will also be used to build upon the district's partnerships with the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and Quaver Music, to provide learning opportunities to expand art teachers' knowledge and skills and enhance their instructional practices in the classroom.
- The Highline School District in King County, Washington has partnered with Art Corps to create the four-year \$1.7 million Highline Creative Schools Initiative, an FY 2014 Model Development and Dissemination Grant project that has served a diverse population of 600 sixth-grade students in two high poverty middle schools. Expected outcomes include increased student achievement; increased literacy, visual arts, and theater arts learning; improved school engagement and middle school transition; and strengthened teacher capacity to deliver arts-integrated lessons and assessments.
- The most recent National Program Competition awarded a three-year grant to The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to provide arts education programs and resources focusing on pre-K–12. The programs and resources are in three areas: Teaching, Learning, and Partnerships; Performances for Young Audiences; and Career Development for Artistically Talented Young People.

**The U.S. Department of Education can maximize the impact of the direct federal investment in arts education by immediately disseminating information about the outcomes of projects funded by the Assistance for Arts Education grant programs.**

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## BACKGROUND

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The Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) program at the U.S. Department of Education is authorized under Title IV of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) and is a continuation of the programs previously authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as the “Arts in Education” program fund.

ESSA recognizes the arts as essential to a “well-rounded” education. The arts education programs have received consistent bipartisan support from Congress year after year—ultimately winning congressional support annually. The Senate approved \$27 million in support for the Arts Education program fund for FY 2018 making possible a new round of competitive grants. The Administration’s FY 2019 budget proposal calls for defunding the Assistance For Arts Education grant program.