

**Frequently Asked Questions
Arts and Music Block Grant, Fiscal Year 2008-09**

1. Does the legislation authorizing the funding remain the same as prior years?

The legislation authorizing the funding for fiscal year (FY) 2008-09 is Assembly Bill 88, whereas the funding for FY 2007-08 was Senate Bill 77. The use of the funding remains constant as it has for the prior two FYs.

2. What are the uses of the funds in Fiscal Year 2008-09?

Funding may be used for the following purposes:

- Implementing or increasing staff development opportunities, as necessary to support standards-aligned dance, music, theatre, and visual arts instruction
- Hiring of additional staff and for ongoing support of staff hired under the grant program
- Purchase of new or used standards-aligned materials, books, supplies, and equipment

3. What are considered supplies?

Per the California School Accountability Manual, supplies are those items of a short life span, constantly consumed and replaced without substantially increasing the value of the physical assets of the local educational agency (LEA). For Example:

- Instrument repair
- Purchases of glazes for a ceramic course
- Copper and gold wire for a jewelry course
- Lighting templates for a theater course
- CDs, drums, and rhythm instruments for dance instruction

4. What is considered equipment?

Per the California School Accountability Manual, equipment has relative permanent value and substantially increases the value of the physical assets of the LEA.

NOTE: Installation and labor costs, improvement of site, and building fixture purchases are not provided for with this funding. Also, transportation, field trips, assemblies, or hiring artists to instruct are not authorized with this funding. Examples of possible purchases:

- Musical instruments
- Portable dance floor
- Jewelry Kiln
- Set of probable lights for theater and/or dance courses
- Portable storage container

5. What type of instructional materials can be purchased with these funds?

Instructional materials aligned to the California Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards may be purchased with these funds.

6. Are there resources for suggested purchases of educational materials with our Arts and Music Block Grant funds?

Yes, there are many resources available to districts. One example is on the California Learning Resource Network (CLRN) Web site at <http://www.clrn.org/vpa/> (Outside Source). The CLRN Web site has many different electronic or online materials for any core subject, including books, tapes, CDs, etc., all of which have met the California standards, grades four through twelve, for visual and performing arts. The four professional arts organizations' Web sites contain additional resources.

7. Is there a time frame in which the funds must be spent?

No, however, funds carried forward are subject to the requirements of the budget act in the FY that the funding was approved.

8. If a district governing board elects to not allocate funds to school sites in the amounts specified in the grant, a resolution has to be adopted. What is a "resolution"?

A resolution is a plan or proposal, approved and adopted by the district governing board that specifies how the funds are to be allocated among school sites and for district-wide purposes and the reasons for those allocations. This resolution is not intended to be a "gilded first letter" or "whereas" document.

9. Is there a resolution template?

No. Each LEA determines how they will provide the information to the governing board.

10. When does the district governing board need to adopt the resolution?

The district should act in a timely manner because their summary report is due to California Department of Education (CDE) by February 2, 2009. As the resolution may include contractual agreements, purchases, and district/school site work, it should be adopted early in the FY.

11. Who needs to be notified that a public meeting will be held regarding the district's resolution on specific use of funds?

Notification of the content of the proposed resolution, including the time, date, and location of the meeting needs to be given to school site councils, school-wide advisory groups, or school support groups, as applicable.

12. What authority does the California Department of Education have to request a summary report from each district?

AB 88, Item 6110-265-0001, Budget Act of 2008, stipulates that "by February 2, 2009, as a condition of receipt of funds, the governing board of each school district shall provide a summary report to the State Department of Education."

13. What is to be included in the summary report that is due to the California Department of Education?

How the funds for FY 2008-09 were expended or are proposed to be expended, and through the use of this funding the number of pupils, and the grade levels served.

14. Is there a template for the summary report?

Yes, the template for the 2008-09 Summary Report is on the Professional Development Web page located at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/vp>. The information in the narrative should align with funding amounts reflected on the summary report.

15. For the purpose of the summary report, what if district work has yet to serve students or grade levels?

Many districts have taken the time evaluate their existing arts education program, to write a five to eight year arts education plan, and begin to provide professional development to elementary teachers/single subject teachers. Undertaking this work may delay increasing the number of students participating in additional or expanded courses. The summary report can include such information, so that false numbers are not generated. Increasing student participation/course offerings would then be reflected in the next year's reporting. The student numbers and grades served are reported reflecting use of this grant's funding only.

16. When is the summary report due to the California Department of Education?

The budget language states, "By February 2, 2009, as a condition of receipt of funds..."

17. To what address do I mail my summary report?

Deliver or mail by February 2, 2009, to:

Curriculum Leadership Office
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 4309
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: Nancy Carr, Education Programs Consultant