

ARTS AND MUSIC IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does the Arts and Music In Schools Initiative Do?

A: The initiative will provide more than \$900 million every year to arts and music education in California public schools – without raising taxes. If passed, the measure would be the largest investment in arts and music education in the country.

Q: Why is this measure needed?

A: Arts and music education plays a critical role in the education and development of students, but unfortunately has been underfunded in California. Only one in five public schools has a full-time accredited arts or music teacher, and arts education are frequently the first programs to get cut.

Q: Why is arts and music education important?

A: Study after study has demonstrated the importance of arts and music education in the development of children and their success in school and in life. Arts and music education improves cognitive development, reasoning, and language acquisition; it correlates with higher student achievement in reading and math; and it leads to increased school attendance.

Participating in the arts is especially vital now to support students' mental wellbeing amidst the ongoing impact of COVID-19.

Q: How does the funding get allocated among schools?

A: 70% of the funding gets allocated to every public school in the state based on their enrollment of preK-12 students. The remaining 30% is allocated as an additional amount to schools serving economically disadvantaged students and communities to ensure more equitable access to arts and music education.

Q: Where does the funding go within a school?

A: The initiative requires 100% of the additional school funds to be used for arts and music education, with at least 80% on hiring teachers and aides. The funding can also help with staff training, supplies, materials, and educational partnerships with arts and community organizations.

Q: How do we know the money will go where it's intended?

A: The measure includes strict accountability measures to ensure the funds are spent as intended—to directly benefit students. It prohibits schools from diverting existing funds away from arts and music education.

Q: Who is sponsoring the Measure?

A: Austin Beutner, who has served as LA Unified Superintendent and CalArts Board Chair, is leading a coalition of teachers, artists, musicians, businesses, community groups, labor, entrepreneurs and arts organizations in support of the measure.

The measure's supporters include Actors' Equity Association, California IATSE Council, Dr. Dre, will.i.am, Issa Rae, John Lithgow, Jeff Bridges, Sylvester Stallone, Amy Brenneman, Jimmy Iovine, NBCUniversal, Fender Music, CAA Co-chairman Richard Lovett, Los Angeles Urban League President Michael A. Lawson, Quincy Jones, Universal Music's Sir Lucian Grainge, Frank Gehry, Live Nation's Michael Rapino, The Recording Academy's Harvey Mason Jr., Oakland Museum of California's Lori Fogarty, LA County Museum of Arts' Michael Govan, Pearl Jam and many more.

Q: How will the measure improve equity in schools?

A: The impacts of underfunded arts and music education in our public schools fall hardest on low-income communities, and particularly the Black and Latino students who comprise 61% of total PreK-12 enrollment and 77% of enrollment in low-income communities. Funding arts education – with emphasis on underserved communities – will help close this gap.

Q: How will this measure improve equity and diversity in the tech and media sectors?

A: The initiative is timely as our country seeks to create a more just and equitable future. A boost in arts and music education will help ensure the future workforce in media and technology properly reflect the diversity of the children in our public schools.

“This ballot measure will help define the promise of the next generation of storytellers by ensuring all California students get the high-quality arts and music education they deserve,” adds ballot measure supporter Issa Rae, actress, writer and producer. “It will especially benefit students from communities of color, who often experience a lack of access and equity in access to arts and music education.

Q: How does the measure benefit California's economy?

A: The measure ensures all 6 million students in public schools have access to the foundational education needed to participate in our state's creative economy – and that companies in the creative economy have access to the diverse workforce they need to succeed.

Q: Which arts does the measure include?

A: The measure uses an expansive and current definition of arts that reflects the changing nature of the arts and arts-related industries. Specifically, the measure defines arts to include dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts, including folk art, painting, sculpture, photography, and craft arts, creative expression including graphic arts and design, computer coding, animation, music composition and ensembles, and script writing, costume design, film, and video.

Q: Where does the funding come from if not new taxes?

A: The measure allocated existing revenue from the state General Fund, which currently has a surplus of nearly \$100 billion. The amount dedicated to arts and music education under the measure is equal to roughly 1% of existing education funding – and is in addition to that funding, not counted towards it.

Q: Has the measure qualified?

A: Yes! The campaign submitted more than 1 million signatures to elections officials in April – far more than the 623,212 signatures needed to qualify. In early June, the Secretary of State formally announced that the measure had qualified for the November election. We will receive our Proposition Number and Title in July.

For more information, please visit www.VoteArtsandMusic.org.

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