The future of California depends on our vision of all students accessing a high-quality, well-rounded education that includes the arts. To ensure all students benefit from arts education's ability to develop 21st-century competencies, social-emotional skills, and civic-mindedness, we must invest in students, encourage civic engagement, and address the systemic inequities in public education. The following advocacy and legislative agenda outlines Create CA’s priorities to further our vision.

SUPPORT EFFECTIVE, EQUITABLE, AND TRANSPARENT IMPLEMENTATION OF PROP 28
CREATE CA SUPPORTS ENSURING THE NEW FUNDS EXPAND EQUITABLE ARTS EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

Prop 28 adds The Arts and Music in Schools - Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act to the California Education Code to provide a minimum source for annual funding to "supplement arts education programs" for pupils attending PK-12 public and charter schools. We must ensure school districts implement Prop 28 as intended, meaning that the new funds are used to expand current arts programming and not used to supplant existing arts education funding.

We support the following:

- We support the California Department of Education’s (CDE) staffing request to implement Prop 28 properly.
- We urge utilizing CALPADS as the data system for reporting visual and performing arts staffing, course offerings, and student enrollment. We do not currently have any data on elementary arts education courses or recent data on secondary schools' arts education course offerings. CALPADS will ensure proper monitoring, reporting and oversight of Prop 28.
- We support the policy of allowing multiple school sites to pool Prop 28 funds to hire itinerant teachers and/or contract district-wide arts providers, especially when this advances educational equity within a district.

SUPPORT GOVERNOR NEWSOM’S $100M PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACCESS TO CULTURAL ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCES
CREATE CA SUPPORTS INVESTMENT IN ARTS AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS

The Governor proposes $100 million of one-time Proposition 98 General Fund—or roughly $200 per 12th-grade student enrolled in California public schools—to enable local educational agencies to provide high school seniors access to cultural enrichment experiences across the state. Create CA asks that the funds be made available to any high school student at the discretion of a Local Education Agency.
OPPOSE $1.2B CUT TO ARTS, MUSIC & INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS DISCRETIONARY BLOCK GRANT

CREATE CA OPPOSES THE RETROACTIVE CUT TO THE BLOCK GRANT

The Governor’s budget proposes to cut $1.2B from the Arts, Music & Instruction Materials Discretionary Block Grant. The Block grant, appropriated in the 2022 budget, provides Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with discretionary funding for arts, instructional materials, and operational costs with allowable uses different from Prop 28. Create CA strongly encourages the legislature to protect the Block Grant at the original funding level of approximately $3.5 billion. Schools have already planned for these one-time funds to support diverse uses, and cutting these funds will cause severe disruptions to schools and student learning.

SUPPORT SB 549 (NEWMAN) AND AB 238 (MURATSUCHI)

CREATE CA SUPPORTS INVESTMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE TEACHER WORKFORCE PIPELINE

Prop 28 is estimated to be able to fund upwards of 15,000 new arts education teachers. We must ensure enough teachers meet the new demand to expand access to arts education.

- SB 549 - Teacher credentialing: out-of-state teachers: will expedite the teaching credential application process for teachers prepared in other states or territories outside California.

- AB 238 - California Student Teacher Support Grant Program: will, contingent upon an appropriation of one-time funding, create a grant program to compensate student teachers to help alleviate financial stress at a critical time in the teacher preparation process.

We also encourage the California Department of Education and Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to designate Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) as a qualified teacher shortage area to help potential students leverage financial aid programs aimed at building the teacher pipeline. For example, the TEACH and Teacher Residency grant programs require applicants to teach in designated shortage areas.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CREATE CA!