



Arts in Alternative Education Grants FY2024 Program Guidelines

Application Deadlines:

- **July 15 Deadline** for projects beginning August 1 – August 31
- **August 1 Deadline** for projects beginning September 1 – October 31
 - *Due to the late launch date of this grant program, late applications are accepted for this deadline. If you would like to submit a late application, contact the grants office at grants@arts.ok.gov or 405-521-2040*
- **October 1 Deadline** for projects beginning November 1 – December 31
- **December 1 Deadline** for projects beginning January 1 – February 29
- **February 1 Deadline** for projects beginning March 1 – June 30

**New for FY24:

- The maximum grant award request is up to \$5,000 per project. A 5% award match is still required. Award amounts are determined using the grant program scoring criteria and agency priorities.
- New application deadlines are based on the project start date and can be found in the guidelines. Applications can still be submitted before the published deadline.

Students who attend alternative education schools often require specific educational interventions. Artists in residence can help these students to build new skills and develop healthy methods of creative self-expression through classes like creative writing, painting, photography, music, and theatre while also allowing them to complete a Fine Arts credit (required for high school completion). Previous participating schools report that artist in residence visits result in increased attendance and higher graduation rates, among other positive student outcomes.

Arts education can play an important role in improving academic performance in Oklahoma. Studies show that students who have four years of high school arts education score higher on college entrance exams than students with little or no arts education. Arts education often improves performance in math and science, increases school attendance, promotes civic engagement, and decreases anti-social behavior. In addition, arts education supports the development of the whole child, builds skills, and offers students positive methods of creative self-expression.

Students receive the most benefit when they receive an arts education that is:

- Sequential, building skills and knowledge over time,
- Hands-on, allowing students to engage deeply in the creative process, and
- Led by educators with both artistic expertise and educational experience.

Program Objectives

- Expand arts access (dance, drama, literary arts, media arts, music, and/or visual arts) to more Oklahoma students
- Support hands-on, sequential arts learning

- Offer arts education for students in alternative education school sites that is tailored to meet individual student and site goals and that supports the goals of Oklahoma Alternative Education
- Allow participating students to complete a Fine Arts credit required for graduation
- Create more opportunities for Oklahoma students to meaningfully engage with the arts during the school day

Overview

Project Activity Dates: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (Grant Period FY2024)

Grant Amount: Each alternative education site (designated by the Oklahoma State Department of Education) is eligible to apply for two grants up to \$5,000 each per school year. Award amounts are determined using the grant program scoring criteria and agency priorities.

Match requirement: 5%. Matching funds may not be other Oklahoma Arts Council funds.

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Who Can Apply?

Alternative education sites designated by the Oklahoma State Department of Education

What Types of Projects Can Be Supported?

Learning-based arts projects, including:

- In-school classes, residencies, and workshops (frequency and duration may vary; focus should be on sequential hands-on learning) where each student receives six or more hours of hands-on arts engagement.
- Online/virtual learning-based arts programs where each student receives six or more hours of hands-on arts engagement.

What Expenses Are Allowable?

Funding from the Arts in Alternative Education Grant can be used to reimburse the following expenses:

- Teaching Artist Fees (payment to the teaching artist hired or contracted to lead instruction)
- Teaching Artist Travel Expenses (may include mileage, lodging, or other costs but cannot include food or drink)
- Contracted Administration or Technical Fees (payment for a contracted project coordinator, grant writer, or other professional services)
- Consumable Supplies (must be directly related to the project, supply expenses cannot exceed 30% of overall project budget)
- Other Expenses (including printed programs, signage, licensing and/or royalty fees, etc.)

Unallowable expenses include tickets, tuition, field trips, student travel, scholarships, capital expenditures and/or building improvements, permanent art installations, activities for which college credit is given, loss of revenue, debt repayment, subgranting, duties or expenses related to fundraising and/or lobbying, activities with a religious purpose, events that are not open to the public, cash prizes or awards, and hospitality expenses (i.e., food, drink, receptions, parties, galas)

Required Outcomes

Proposals for funding must seek to accomplish the following:

Outcome 1: Student Success and Performance, Addressing Learning Loss

Arts education promotes student engagement and increased attendance, critical factors in helping students overcome learning loss caused from disruptions in education. Studies show that arts education offers unique benefits to students beyond the classroom. Consistent, high-quality arts education allows students to develop skills in the arts and is also linked to higher literacy and performance in math, science, and other content areas. Arts education also encourages students to practice critical thinking, problem-solving, goal-setting, and strong habits for working individually and as part of a group. Participation in the arts also correlates with increased empathy, healthier emotional regulation, and self-confidence.

Outcome 2: Hands-On, Sequential Arts Experiences

Projects should offer students meaningful opportunities for hands-on participation in the arts. Projects should also focus on sequential learning experiences in which students build artistic knowledge and skills over time. Students should receive no less than six hours of hands-on time directly engaging in the art form. Projects should include sequential skill-building beyond one-time and make-and-take experiences. The benefits of arts education are most fully realized when students engage with the arts consistently over time.

Outcome 3: Creative Expression

Projects will offer students opportunities to make creative choices and/or experiment within the parameters of the artistic discipline and/or medium. Students are encouraged to express themselves creatively as they participate in the arts.

Outcome 4: Qualified Teaching Artists

Students receive instruction from qualified teaching artists whose expertise in the art form is well demonstrated. Teaching artists also demonstrate proficiency as educators, bringing skills such as classroom management, arts learning assessment, and student engagement to their arts classrooms.

How to Apply

Step 1: If your school has not applied for an Oklahoma Arts Council grant in the past three years, you will need to [request access to the grant system](#). Once you have access, you can log in and apply for a grant. If you have questions about logging in, please contact our grants office at 405-521-2040 or grants@arts.ok.gov.

Step 2: Once your school has access to the [grant system](#), your school's Grant Contact can log on and complete an application. Submit the application by the deadlines published in the program guidelines.

Grant Process

1. Request access to the grant system (for new schools only)
2. Submit an application
3. Application is reviewed by Oklahoma Arts Council
4. Award notification (if the project is selected for funding)
5. Authorizing Official accepts grant contract
6. Project activity occurs
7. Grant Contact submits final report
8. Grant payment is processed

Scoring Criteria and Agency Priorities

The Oklahoma Arts Council will consider the following when we review applications for Arts in Alternative Education Grants:

1. Artistic Quality

Artist Selection

- Selected artist(s) demonstrate artistic expertise and educational experience relevant to the proposed project.
- Artist(s) and project provides a relevant, engaging, and meaningful arts experience for students.
- Project fosters creative expression, originality, and/or innovation.

Arts Learning Goals

- Arts learning goals are discipline-specific, developmentally appropriate, and reflect a strong curriculum plan.
- Project demonstrates adequate student hands-on engagement time to achieve provided arts learning goals.
- Student learning assessment plan measures progress toward provided arts learning goals.
- In-school projects have arts learning goals that address the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Fine Arts.
- Project may provide opportunities for teacher training or professional development led by project artist(s).

Project Planning and Design

- Project is relevant to the school community.
- Project goals are well-defined.
- Timeline, format, and activities are feasible within the scope of the project.

2. Artistic Merit

Public Value

Proposal demonstrates the applicant's ability to execute a project that:

- Aligns with the grant program objectives and goals.
- Meets the needs of their students and school community.
- Creates opportunities for their students to participate in the arts.
- Directly relates to and serves their students.
- Demonstrates a high need for public investment.
- Presents a strong case for public funding.
- Project may provide opportunities for a culminating event such as end-of-residency exhibits, performances, or other public-facing components.

3. The Oklahoma Arts Council will prioritize funding to serve the following:

- Schools located in geographically isolated and rural areas

- Title I Schools
- Limited Access to Art Form
- First-time Applicants

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What types of artistic disciplines can be supported?

A. The Oklahoma Arts Council uses artistic quality as one of its review criteria for grants. Artistic disciplines include, but are not limited to, music, theatre, dance, literary arts, media arts, and visual arts. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project, please contact our Arts Education Director.

Q. Can these grant funds support a memorial sculpture, mural, or other permanent artwork?

A. Unfortunately, no. Oklahoma Arts Council's grants for schools cannot be used to support capital improvements/expenses including the creation of permanent artwork or the improvement of buildings/properties.

Q. My school is already receiving funding through Oklahoma Arts Council's other school grant program(s). Can I apply for this opportunity?

A. Yes, Alternative Education sites can apply for up to two Arts in Alternative Education Grants between July through June in addition to other school grants like the Classroom Supply Grant for Visual and Performing Arts. If your school is selected to receive an Arts in Alternative Education grant, your school or district will need to provide a 5% match for the award. None of the match may not come from another Oklahoma Arts Council grant awards.

Q. Can my school purchase marimbas, tubas, and other instruments with this grant?

A. No, this grant cannot be used to purchase permanent equipment such as instruments.

Q. How do I find a teaching artist to work with my students?

A. You can find artists on our [Oklahoma Teaching Artist Roster](#), however you are not required to use artists on this roster for your grant.

Q. How can I update my school's Grant Contact or Authorizing Official?

A. Contact the Grants Office at grants@arts.ok.gov.

Q. How do I find out if my school has access to the Grants System to apply for a grant?

A. Contact Jennifer Allen-Barron at jennifer.allen-barron@arts.ok.gov or grants@arts.ok.gov.

Grantee Requirements

If selected for funding, grantee organizations must comply with all requirements as outlined in the Legal Assurances/General Grant Terms, grant contract, and grant program guidelines, including but not limited to the following:

- Signed electronic grant contract by the deadline specified in the award notification email
- Updated contact, mailing, and payment/banking information with the Oklahoma Arts Council and Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) Supplier Portal
 - Oklahoma Arts Council will process grant payments to the school/district bank account or address as registered in the [Oklahoma Supplier Portal](#)
- Thank you letters to your organization's legislators
- Timely submission of required reports

- Retention of all financial records (including invoices and receipts) related to the grant award for seven years

Who to Contact for Help

For questions about this grant program, contact Jennifer Allen-Barron, Arts Education Director, at jennifer.allen-barron@arts.ok.gov or (405) 249-7987.

For questions about grant system access, contact Martyna Sandoval, Grants and Programs Associate, at martyna.sandoval@arts.ok.gov or 405-521-2040.

For questions about managing your grant award, contact Thomas Tran, Grants Director, at thomas.tran@arts.ok.gov or 405-967-3290.