



Los Angeles Unified's

Investments in Arts Education

with the Support of
Prop. 28 Starting in 2023-24

What is Prop. 28?

- Passed by California voters in November 2022 through a ballot initiative.
- Funding is allocated based on student enrollment and economic need.
- At least 80 percent of the funds must be used to hire classified or certificated staff to provide arts education instruction.
- School sites have three fiscal years to spend each school year's allocation of funds they receive each year.
- The law requires that non-Prop. 28 arts expenditures at the district level are higher than previous years and does not factor in differences in spending at a school site level.

Why is Prop. 28 important to our school communities?

Prop. 28 provided approximately \$77 million this school year for school investments in Arts Education at Los Angeles Unified. As outlined in the District's Strategic Plan, increased investments in Arts Education is critical for academic growth, student personal development, social emotional expression and an overall appreciation for diversity and culture. Los Angeles Unified is proud to support Arts education via other funding sources beyond Prop. 28.

How is Prop. 28 funding increasing Arts Education?

Thanks to Prop. 28 and increases to its Targeted Student Populations Arts and Cultural Arts Passport program, Los Angeles Unified increased its total Arts budget to \$206 million in the 2023-24 school year, compared to \$74 million spent in 2022-23.

	2022-2023 District Actuals	2023-2024 District Budget
Total non-Prop. 28 Arts Education Funds	\$74.4 million	\$129.5 million
Prop. 28 Funds	\$0	\$76.7 million
Grand Total for Arts Education	\$74.4 million	\$206.2 million

The increased funding allows for expanded student access to dance, music, theater, and visual and media arts across all grade levels.

While school-level funding may vary, on average, our schools saw an \$82,000 increase in their total Arts budget since last school year. That's a 60 percent increase in a school's budget. Proposition 28 stipulates that funds be used to increase funding of arts education programs within school districts.



How many more employees have school sites hired with their Prop. 28 funding compared to prior years?

Because voters passed the ballot initiative in November 2022, the State of California provided funding for the first time in the 2023-24 school year. As such, there is no comparison data at this time since the current school year is the first time this funding was made available to school sites.



Why might some school sites not see an increase in staffing or funding?

- Due to the diversity of our schools and their respective school-site budgets, Prop. 28 funding may fluctuate at each school from one year to the next.
- Because the Prop. 28 initiative allows funding to be spent over three years, some school sites may make a local determination to use some of the funds for the next year if they are not able to hire staff.
- Since the amount of Prop. 28 monies a school site receives may not be sufficient to hire a full-time staff member to support Arts education, some schools may choose to hire someone that works part-time for them and part-time at another school site.
- Schools have the discretion to use different sources of funding from year to year based on each year's budgeting. Staffing shortages, especially in the Arts, have played a role in not being able to fully staff schools.



What kind of discretion do school sites have in deciding how to spend the funding they receive from Prop. 28?

The ballot initiative requires at least 80 percent of the funds be spent on school employees (classified or certificated). Once they meet this requirement, the schools have the discretion to spend the rest of their available Prop. 28 funds to purchase arts supplies, materials, and contract arts providers.

Los Angeles Unified does not control how individual school sites budget their money or revise line items from one year to the next, other than providing guidance on the statutorily required usage of funds. As a result of this flexibility, some schools have chosen to use Prop. 28 funding to pay an arts teacher and used their non-Prop 28 arts funding on arts materials, curriculum and experiences to create a more robust Arts program. In short, individual schools may use funds in different ways or may move previously allocated positions between budget line items, while still seeing an overall increase. Schools are required to maintain a Prop. 28 plan.



Why does my school not have more supplies and materials funded by Prop. 28?

Prop. 28 has a requirement that a minimum of 80% of the funds need to be spent on hiring teachers and support staff, so there are limited resources available that could be used to increase arts supplies and other materials.

