

5 Questions to Ask Now

About Arts Education & School Funding

The new [Local Control Funding Formula \(LCFF\)](#) provides a great opportunity for parents and teachers to let decision makers know how important the arts are to learning. School districts must engage parents, teachers and local communities in creating a [Local Control and Accountability Plan \(LCAP\)](#). These plans describe goals and specific measures the district will take in each of eight state priority areas, including providing students with access to required areas of study such as the arts. Ask these five questions to make sure your district knows the importance of an arts education plan, dedicated resources, and a way to measure progress.

As PTA leaders and members, we can lead the way to a quality education for all children that includes the arts!

Five Key Questions to ask your school and district leaders about arts education as your school board decides how to allocate money

Talk to
Your School
Board

1. **Does your school have a quality arts program?** What is currently being offered at your school? In your district? Finding this out will lay the groundwork for what you need to do next. Use the [Insider's Guide to Arts Education](#) step-by-step guide.
2. **How can arts education best be integrated into the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan?** What programs should every child receive? How will the district provide these? Ask questions to find out whether your school district is making a long-term commitment to support arts in the curriculum.
3. **Are the arts included in professional development for Common Core State Standards?** The state is giving districts additional money to prepare teachers for new state standards, called [Common Core State Standards](#). Is your district including lessons on how to integrate the arts into language arts, math, science and history?
4. **Does your school district use its Title 1 money to support arts education?** The [U.S. Department of Education has released guidance](#) stating that "Activities that support the arts, in conjunction with other activities, can form an important part of an LEA's Title I program."
5. **How can the district use Local Control Funding money to provide arts education for low-income students, English-Language Learners and foster youth?** Arts education is listed as one of the state priorities for the new funding formula. Research shows the arts are a powerful tool that helps children-- especially our most needy students-- succeed.

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