



**PROPOSITION 28--In Depth Supplement
Provides Additional Funding for Arts and Music Education in Public Schools
Initiative Statute**

Introduction:

This proposition was placed on the ballot through the signature gathering process.

Background:

California's public schools are operated by school districts and charter schools, serving about 6 million K-12 students. School districts and charter schools are under the jurisdiction of local governing boards, such as school boards.

Roughly 60% of students in California public schools are from low-income families living in households with an income between 130% and 185% of the federal poverty threshold. These students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches.

Prop 98 passed in 1988. It changed the California Constitution to require a minimum percentage of the state budget to be spent on K-14 education. This minimum guarantee is the higher of two numbers—either 40% of the state General Fund or the prior year's minimum guarantee adjusted for student attendance and cost of living. With a two-thirds vote from both the state Senate and Assembly, California could provide less funding for K-14 education than would be required under Prop 98 for that fiscal year.

The Situation:

There is currently no guaranteed source of annual funding in the state budget specifically for arts and music education in K-12 public schools. The state funds the After School Education and Safety program and the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program. These before/after school and summer programs require an enrichment component that may contain arts and music education.

State law requires schools to provide arts and music instruction to all students in grades 1 through 6. Students in grades 7 through 8 must be offered such courses as electives. High school students must complete 1 year of arts or music education, a foreign language, or career technical education. Currently, half of California high schools have set their minimum graduation requirements to match the state's public university's admission requirements. Under these requirements, high school students must complete one year of visual and performing arts to graduate.

The Proposal:

Prop 28 would require the state to set aside some of its revenue to fund arts and music education in K-12 public schools. This funding would be in addition to the funding already guaranteed by Prop 98 (1988). Arts and music education funding would have to



be at least 1% of the funding received by schools from Prop 98. Prop 28 allows the Legislature to reduce funding for arts and music education in a year when total funding to K-14 education is reduced following a two-thirds vote from both the state Senate and Assembly.

Funding from Prop 28 would be distributed based on enrollment numbers in preschool and K-12. Seventy percent of the funding would be allocated to schools based on their proportion of California's total enrollment. The remaining 30% of the funding would be allocated to schools based on their proportion of students from low-income households that are enrolled statewide.

Each school's principal would be tasked with planning how funding would be spent. Larger schools would be required to spend 80% of the funding to employ new staff and 20% on training and supplies.

Local governing boards, such as school boards, would be required to certify annually that their schools spent the funding provided by Prop 28 on arts and music education. Local governing boards would also be required to report publicly how funding was used to directly benefit students.

Fiscal Effects:

Arts and music education would cost \$800 million to \$1 billion each year—less than one-half of 1 % of the state's total General Fund.

Supporters Say:

- Prop 28 would increase funding for educational programs without raising taxes for Californians.
- Only one in five California public schools has a dedicated teacher for arts or music programs.
- Arts and music education can improve a student's personal and academic life.

***Opponents Say:**

No arguments against Proposition 28 were submitted to the Secretary of State.

A Los Angeles Times editorial (11/14/21) criticized this proposition as "ballot box budgeting" that reduces the ability to fund other programs that are equally important.

***Supporters:** (signers of ballot arguments are shown in bold)



Yes on 28 Vote Arts & Music <https://voteyeson28.org/>

Supporters of Prop 28 include:

- **Californians for Arts and Music in Public Schools**
- **California Teachers Association**
- **California State PTA**
- Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)
- California Democratic Party
- California Community Foundation
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU) California
- California state Senator Sydney Kamlager

Note: The FPPC report says no contributions have reached the reporting threshold.

*For information about total funding and major contributors, consult one of these sources: Voter's Edge (votersedge.org/ca), Power Search (powersearch.sos.ca.gov/quick-search.php), or Fair Political Practices Commission (www.fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors/nov-22-gen.html). The latter lists only the contributions of the campaign committees.