



advancing creativity in education

FAQ – Section 33 Visual Arts & Music Grant

1. Who should complete this application?

Eligible schools will fall into the following categories of priority:

1. K-5 schools that do not currently offer music or visual arts education.
2. K-5 schools that offer music or visual arts education and will commit to making advancements to their programming based on the criteria outlined in the [Michigan Blueprint for a Quality Arts Program](#).

The application should be completed by district or school personnel who can make decisions regarding budgeting, scheduling, and logistical details.

Recommendations regarding music curriculum are best made by music education professionals. Applicants may contact the [Michigan Music Education Association](#), which supports general music at the K-5 level, or other statewide music education associations to discuss.

Recommendations regarding visual arts curriculum are best made by visual arts education professionals. Applicants may contact the [Michigan Art Education Association](#), which supports visual arts at the K-5 level.

2. What does it mean to make advancements to their programming based on criteria outlined in the Michigan Blueprint of a Quality Arts Program?

The Blueprint features seven criteria and 44 indicators that define a quality arts program.

For this application, if a school has a music or visual arts program and would like to apply for an arts grant, they must commit to making **at least one** improvement based on these criteria and indicators.

The application will ask the applicant to identify which criteria they will be improving. The choices include:

- A. Student Access
- B. Facilities and Resources
- C. Policies and Accountability
- D. Connections

- E. Professional Learning and Instructional Support
- F. Community and Cultural Collaboration
- G. Program Planning, Review, and Improvement

3. What other commitments must a school make to be eligible for arts grant funding?

The applicant to two additional items:

- A. Using the [Program Review Tool](#), which accompanies the Michigan Blueprint of a Quality Arts Program, to create a continuous improvement plan specific to arts education.
- B. Provide data through a survey instrument to be shared by MI Creative Potential/MAEIA for statewide data collection and reporting. If awarded, applicants will receive follow-up communication, timeline, and links for data collection.

4. Will this grant be available next year?

This grant is a result of a one-time allocation by the Michigan legislature.

5. Do all criteria need to be met for consideration of funds?

Yes, all criteria need to be met for a school to receive grant funds.

6. We don't have an additional classroom to designate for music or visual arts. Can we offer music or visual arts on a cart or in a shared space?

The legislation mandates a designated space for music class that is considerate of instructional resources and storage. If the school's selected curriculum can effectively be delivered by a music-on-a-cart model, then this satisfies the criteria. Please see the Michigan Blueprint for Quality Arts Education for the ideal spatial requirements for a well-rounded music education for consideration in your school's continuous improvement plan.

7. The timeline of this application and submission deadline is short. What if our school board does not, or cannot, approve a curricula before the application deadline?

In this instance, please apply for the grant by November 21. If you are awarded the requested funds, you may accept contingently upon approval from your School Board.

Applicants may also adopt the MAEIA [sample curriculum maps](#) to satisfy this criteria while working to develop or purchase meaningful curriculum for the discipline.

8. How do we find a certified music or visual arts educator?

Job notices may be submitted to the statewide music education associations. K-5 general music is supported by the [Michigan Music Education Association](#). You may also find certified educators through the [Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association](#), [Michigan School Vocal Music Association](#), and the [Michigan chapter of the American Strings Teachers Association](#).

Job notices may be submitted to visual arts association, [Michigan Art Education Association](#).

9. What needs to be included in the schedule?

Reviewers need to be able to easily identify when music and visual arts instruction occurs, as well as the duration and frequency to ensure the 60 minute weekly requirement is satisfied.

10. What can be included in the budget?

Your curriculum should help you determine a list of resources and materials required for effective instruction. Your budget can include teacher salary, as well as estimated costs for the resources and materials outlined in your curricular needs. A list of approved items can be found on the budget template.

11. Who will be reviewing the applications and determining awards?

The review panel consists of arts and education professionals from the organizations who collaborate as the Michigan Arts Education Coalition for which MAEIA serves as the backbone. These agencies include MDE, Michigan Arts and Culture Council, and the Michigan Education Association.

Some individuals may represent statewide arts education associations which serve as MAEIA Partners such as Michigan Music Education Association, Michigan Art Education Association, Michigan School Vocal Music Association.

These two groups assemble to streamline and align activity that advances arts education statewide. The review panel for this grant consists of representatives from each of these partners and includes disciplinary experts in music and visual arts education.

12. Does this grant require a final report?

There is no final report required by the legislation. A final expenditures report will need to be uploaded to the NexSys platform by October 30, 2025.

13. Why is this grant exclusive to music and visual arts education and not dance or theatre?

The legislators who championed this effort started with a focus on music and visual arts. In the process, this was streamlined to music education for the 2023-24 academic year. MAEIA advocated for the unspent funds to be carried over to the 2024-25 academic year and to include a number of changes in the legislative language. It is MAEIA's goal, and that of the MAEIA Partners, that support for arts education will continue.

14. Who do I contact if I have questions or need support?

For questions related to the grant, the application, or the process of application, please contact Mary Head, Office of Educational Supports, Michigan Department of Education at HeadM1@michigan.gov.

For questions related to music and visual arts education, the MAEIA resources, sample application or more, please contact MAEIA Professional Learning Director, Heather Vaughan-Southard, at hvsouthard@gmail.com.