

Elementary Arts Education Program
Request for Applications (RFA)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
4/21/11, Revised

This information was compiled as a result of questions asked through the 2008-2009 School Year. For additional information, please access the General Information Section of the application available at the NMPED homepage: www.ped.state.nm.us under A TO Z Visual and Performing Arts Education programs/application or call Vicki Breen at (505) 827-6559.

1. After this year, how will funding continue to support the arts initiatives?

Funding will continue as long as the New Mexico Legislature includes the Fine Arts Education Act (FAEA) in the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) also known as the funding formula, and as long as the statutes remain. Continued funding will also be determined by progress reported, NMPED monitoring and an approved application each year.

2. How will the dollar amount be determined for new applications (as compared to renewals)?

There is no difference. Refer to funding information in the RFA and in House Bill 2.

3. Since dollars will be going into operational, what is the guarantee that these dollars will be used as intended to support the arts?

The annual application must include the elementary arts education program to be supported by the district and include the exact numbers of students being served under the FAEA and as recorded in STARS data. Focused monitoring conducted by NMPED staff will provide for greater transparency in the use of the funds. The Public Education Department fully expects each district to fulfill their application as approved and for the accompanying budget to support their application.

3. a. Some districts would like to use the funding dollars for elementary arts programs as funding for other programs and positions. Again, what is the guarantee that these dollars will be used as intended to support the arts?

The intent and purpose of the Fine Arts Education Act is to provide funds for direct instruction and/or professional development only in the fine arts content areas identified in the legislation: theater arts, music, dance and visual arts.

Focused monitoring of the application conducted by NMPED staff will provide for greater transparency in the use of the funds. If the district uses FAEA/elementary arts funds to pay for: i.e., one-fourth of funding or staffing for another program, the program must teach that portion of the program through art, music, dance or theater, for that portion of the school year. The Public Education Department fully expects each district to fulfill their application as approved and

committed to and for the accompanying budget to support their application; State Statute 22-15D-1 et. seg., and State Statute 22-8-18.

4. If an application includes a projected budget for 700 students and next school year STARS reports there are 600, then what will be the actual funding?

The number of students funded will be the number of students approved from each district's STARS report. Numbers in the application and in the STARS data will be compared for verification.

5. For those programs funded last year, will the 80 and 120 average be used?

State Statute requires that programs will be funded on prior year average membership data for those programs funded last year or the previous year (80 and 120 day average). Newly approved programs (2009-2010) will be funded based on that School Year's 40th day membership data as reported in STARS.

6. If three districts are planning to form a consortium after funding takes place, what happens if only two are funded?

Even though districts may not apply as a consortium, they can collaborate on common goal(s) and objectives and how they will work together to serve students. Programs that meet requirements in the RFA will be approved. Districts have local autonomy to determine the resources needed to run a program.

7. If a small district is developing a program incrementally, and all students are not served in Year 1, how will that affect the funding?

That will affect funding in two ways. The district should apply for the number of elementary students to be served, and the district can, in future applications, incrementally increase the number of students to be served as the program expands.

8. How do you distinguish new funds in the budget worksheet in the application from old funds if you are applying for an application renewal?

You do not need to distinguish between old funds and new funds. However, you are required to include all funding sources for your elementary arts program. Work with your business office representative to complete records for expenditures. All Program Directors should maintain a file for these expenditures and other purposes in order to implement, maintain and cultivate this program.

9. Regarding intended outcomes, are they supposed to be student outcomes?

As the RFA requires, applicants must include indicators related to student outcomes. The other important aspect of evaluation is program implementation and assessment.

10. What else can be used in addition to surveys to evaluate student outcomes?

This is an important opportunity to use performance-based examples of student episodes of learning, i.e., portfolio, journal and video samples as well as community engagement.

11. Can an appendix with supporting or supplemental documentation be submitted with an application? (It was allowed last year.)

Up to five (5) pages of sample documents may be attached to Renewal Applications. New applicants are discouraged from submitting an appendix because readers/evaluators will not be required to review information beyond the application.

12. Can regular certified teachers who are not in the arts teach these programs?

If classroom teachers teach only the elementary arts education program, they must have an endorsement in at least one of the arts, i.e., the visual arts or performing arts. If the entire program is taught within a self-contained elementary classroom, and all areas of the curriculum are being taught, the classroom teacher may teach the arts. Classroom teachers can supervise artists and other elementary arts education providers.

13. How is funding distributed to districts through the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) process for the Elementary Arts Education Program (FAEA?)

A new section of the Public School Finance Act was legislated during the regular session of New Mexico’s forty-sixth legislative session (2003) to provide funding for Elementary Arts Education Programs as part of the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG). For budgeting purposes for School Year 2009-2010, Elementary Arts Education Program funding will be determined as per House Bill 2 by multiplying 1 MEM in programs implemented in accordance with the Fine Arts Education Act by the cost differential factor of 0.05. This funding should be included in your 2009-2010 School Budget. The funds flow-through monthly State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) payments. The funding does not come as one payment, but is spread out throughout the entire school year. This Funding Formula is listed below.

FAEA Formula

80/120

STARS average x FAEA MEM 1.0 x 0.0500 x T & E index x unit value

Project Directors will need to calculate the amount they will receive:

- 1) STARS average is the average of School Year 2010/2011’s 80 and 120 count;
- 2) FAEA MEM is 1.0
- 3) 0.0500 is the multiplier from FAEA statute
- 3) T & E index comes from the district
- 4) **Unit value--operational- 11-12 ---- \$3,585.97 11000 operational fund**