Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program (BTS Arts) Allowable Expenditures (Districts)

USBE Points of Contact

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https://schools.utah.gov/orgchart

USBE Program Website and Quick Links:

USBE Fine Arts Page
USBE BTS Arts Code
BTS Arts Website

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Overview of Program

Funding source

The Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program (BTS Arts), funded through the Utah State Legislature, is created to enhance the social, emotional, academic, and arts learning of students in kindergarten through Grade 6 by integrating arts teaching and learning into core subject areas, and providing professional development for positions that support elementary arts and integrated arts education.

Description

BTS Arts provides arts-integrated instruction to elementary students, effectively increasing student performance in every subject. BTS Arts funds licensed trained specialists in visual art, dance, music and theater in elementary schools to develop lesson plans that incorporate art into other core subject areas. The Utah State Board of Education administers the program statewide, and collaborates with administrators and university staff from Brigham Young University, Utah Tech University, Southern Utah University, University of Utah, Utah State University, Weber State University, and Westminster University, who provide professional development for BTS Arts educators and coaches.

Availability of Funds

The program provides art-integrated learning opportunities to K-6 students with approximately $19.4 million in ongoing state funds awarded to participating LEAs. Grant period of availability is 12 months, beginning July 1 through June 30.

Website for Grant Application:

The BTS Arts grant is awarded through the Utah Grants Management system and distributed with each LEA's monthly Minimum School Program (MSP) allocation.

Additional Guidance

- Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must submit a BTS Arts program Intent to Participate annually by January 31.
- Applications, distributed online to all LEAs, prioritize funding for renewals, and the Board designates funding to an LEA by June 1 each year.
- Funds are based on FTEs of arts educators and instructional coaches as well as the size of the school population served.
- LEAs cover the remainder of the educator salary equal to the difference between the uniform amount and the actual cost of the educator's salary
- LEAs can use School Land Trust, TSSA and other funds for the required matching funds. Title I funds may be used for the remainder of the match need given arts integration is part of the teaching strategy.
- LEAs must have BTS Arts educators information into USIMS (Previously known as CACTUS) by October 13th. This needs to include updated salary information every year as the grant will be based on the salary information in USIMS.
- Grant funds cannot be used to support non-BTS Arts programs.
- LEAs/schools benefiting from funding must provide annual assurances for accountability each year.

Supplemental Guidance

This guide is intended as a supplemental resource to answering many common questions. Information contained herein does not replace or revoke guidance received directly from USBE staff. LEAs are encouraged to seek personalized assistance from the USBE to clarify the guidance provided in this document as needed.

Purpose of Document

The BTS Arts Program Guide is a resource designed to assist local educational agencies (LEAs), BTS Arts directors, and staff in designing and implementing an effective local BTS Arts program in compliance with State funding requirements.

This Program Guide is based on the interpretation of State Code, as well as the regulations and guidance issued by the Utah State Legislature, or the Utah State Board of Education. It

includes several samples of allowable costs that are not intended to be universally applicable. These samples are not official templates and should be adapted to meet specific LEA requirements.

If there are any doubts about the applicability of the samples, the BTS Arts team at the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) advises each LEA to consult with our office for clarification.

Applying for Funds

The Utah State Board of Education has implemented a common Electronic Grants Management System (EGMS), known as Utah Grants (Utah Grants Login Page). Utah Grants provides a common, centralized, end-to-end grants system. All flow-through funds are managed and tracked in Utah Grants. Utah Grants is a comprehensive solution for grant life-cycle management, including grant applications, budgeting, awards, revisions, reimbursement requests, progress reports and monitoring.

For questions on Utah Grants, please contact the Utah Grants Support Desk: (801) 538-7604 or utahgrants@schools.utah.gov.

Additional Guidance on Grant Requirements

Evidence Based Strategies: Selecting evidence-based strategies when developing a program is important for schools because it ensures that the program has been rigorously tested and has a proven track record of success. Evidence-based strategies are interventions, practices, or programs that have been shown through scientific research to be effective in achieving specific outcomes. By choosing evidence-based strategies, schools can have confidence that they are using approaches that have been shown to be effective in achieving the desired goals. There are several reasons why schools should select evidence-based strategies when developing a program:

1. They have been proven to work: Evidence-based strategies are based on scientific research, which means that they have been tested and shown to be effective in achieving specific outcomes. By using evidence-based strategies, schools can be confident that they are implementing approaches that have been proven to work.

2. They save time and resources: Implementing evidence-based strategies can be more efficient and cost-effective than developing a program from scratch. Research-based strategies are often accompanied by training and implementation materials that have been refined over time, making it easier for schools to implement them successfully.
3. They improve outcomes for students: Evidence-based strategies are designed to improve outcomes for students, whether that's academic achievement, social-emotional development, or behavior. By using strategies that have been shown to be effective, schools can help their students reach their full potential.
4. They enhance accountability: Using evidence-based strategies can help schools demonstrate that they are using resources effectively and achieving the desired outcomes. By using strategies that have been tested and proven to be effective, schools can show that they are being accountable to their stakeholders.

Allowable Expenditure Funding Guidance:

The following categories list budget items for the program/grant (UPEF Program Code). The list is not exhaustive and includes mostly those items that have surfaced over time and that have prompted additional discussion or guidance. For the LEA grant that funds the BTS Arts Educators salary and benefits can only go towards salary and benefits and any additional funds leftover should be adjusted in a budget revision and returned to the Utah State Board of Education.

Salaries (100)

- Typically Allowable. Full or partial salaries for qualified educators, staff and artists-in-residence

Benefits (200)

- Typically Allowable. Benefits (e.g. payroll taxes, medical insurance, life insurance, unemployment insurance, and workers compensation insurance) for qualified educators and staff

Purchased Professional and Technical Services (300)

- Maybe Allowable. Professional training, courses, presenters, and registration fees
- Maybe Allowable. Educator Stipends and Contractors
- Never Allowable. Space Rental
- Typically Allowable. Teaching Artists Contracts

Purchased Property Services (400)

- Maybe Allowable. Repair and maintenance of equipment
- Maybe Allowable. Chemical hazardous waste disposal of materials used in outreach

Other Purchased Services (500)

- Maybe Allowable. Advertising, printing, binding, and mailing costs associated with outreach marketing
- Maybe Allowable. Bus Rental
- Never Allowable. Mobile data plans for off-site outreach electronic equipment

Travel (580)

- Maybe Allowable. Travel costs associated with outreach teaching and professional development: fuel, hotels, per diem for food, mileage reimbursements, parking fees

Supplies & Materials (600)

- Maybe Allowable. Books, educational software, technology such as iPads, art making supplies

Property Including Equipment (700)

- Maybe Allowable. Technology related equipment, technology related software

Other - Not eligible for indirect costs (800)

- Maybe Allowable. Miscellaneous expenses not captured in other lines

Special requirements or additional information: Use of funds must be explained and clearly illustrate how they apply to the organization's outreach program

Indirect costs

- Never Allowable. No BTS Arts funds may be used for indirect costs.