

Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Annual Report EC §8820 (g)(4)

2025 - 2026

For the 2025–2026 school year, Desert Sands Unified School District received an estimated **\$3,800,000** in Proposition 28 Arts and Music in Schools funding, with additional carryover funds available from the prior year. These funds were used to expand, sustain, and strengthen arts education opportunities across the district.

DSUSD planned or encumbered approximately **\$4,664,464** in AMS funding for arts education programs. The majority of these funds were directed toward staffing, with approximately **\$3,997,000** supporting certificated and classified personnel who provide direct arts instruction or instructional support. This represents approximately **85.6%** of total AMS encumbrances, aligning with the Proposition 28 requirement that most funds be used for arts education staffing.

The remaining **\$667,464**, or approximately **14.4%**, was allocated for allowable arts education support costs, including instructional materials, equipment, program supplies, professional development, equipment replacement, and program support needs. These funds helped support new and continuing programs in visual art, music, dance, media arts, theatre, theatre technology, mariachi, choir, band, photography, animation, film, broadcast, and color guard.

AMS funding supported 23.7 full-time equivalent certificated arts education positions, 5 full-time equivalent classified positions, and approximately 50 teaching aide or stipend-supported instructional support positions. In total, 96 individuals or assignments were supported through AMS funding, including certificated FTE, certificated 1/7 assignments, classified FTE, daily-at-will positions, extra-duty aides, stipends, and teacher aides.

These investments served approximately 13,891 students across 36 school sites. This includes 11,026 elementary students, 1,593 high school students, and 1,272 additional middle school students participating in AMS-supported programs.

Through this funding, DSUSD continued to increase student access to standards-based arts education, particularly at the elementary level, while also supporting specialized and advanced arts opportunities at the middle and high school levels. The district's use of AMS funds reflects an accountability-focused approach: prioritizing direct instruction, expanding access, supporting performance and production opportunities, and investing in the materials, equipment, and personnel necessary to sustain high-quality arts programs.