



Lessons from the Field

2016 Oklahoma Arts Education Survey Findings



Lessons from the Field: 2016 Oklahoma Arts Education Survey Findings

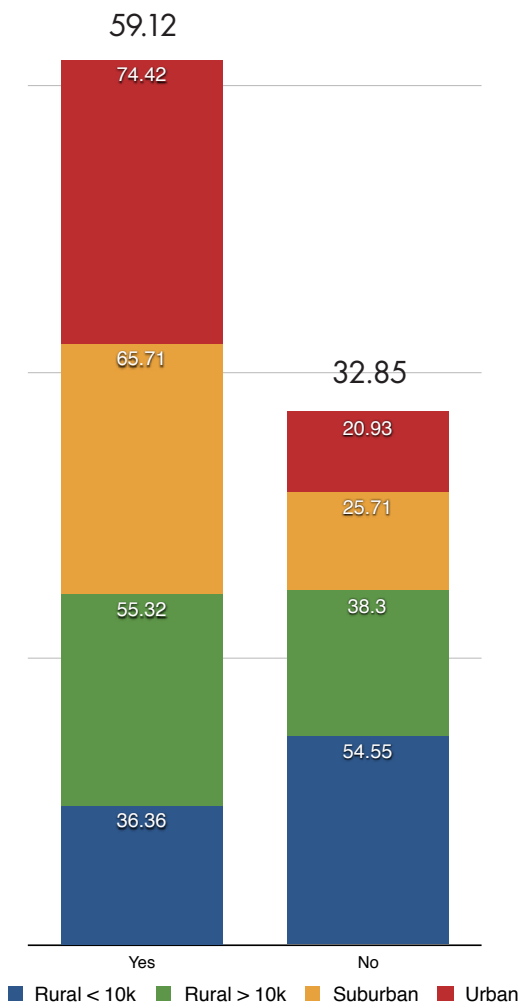
In August, the Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) launched a statewide survey focused on arts education. Our goals were two-fold. First, we wanted to hear from those working in schools in order to better gauge what schools' current needs are regarding arts education. Where is arts education strongest? Where are current gaps? How can OAC grants, programs, and services better address these needs?

Second, we wanted to hear from nonprofits and other community organizations that currently provide arts education programming, in order to learn more about how these organizations are developing innovative partnerships and supporting arts education in schools and school districts across the state.

In less than two months, nearly 500 respondents answered our survey, including 247 representatives from schools and school districts and 250 representatives from community organizations.

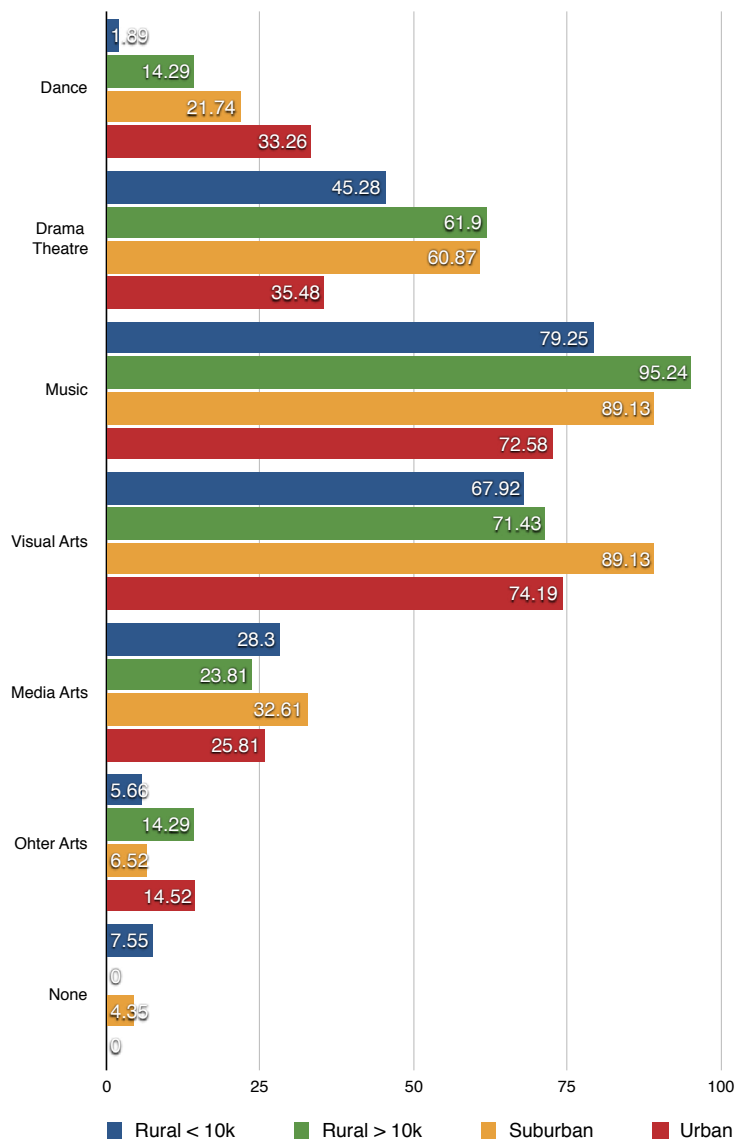
Does your organization currently partner with schools or school districts to offer arts education programming to Pre-K – 12th grade students during the school day?

Numbers below are percentages of total responses.



What fine arts classes are available to students at your school? Select all that apply.

Numbers below are percentages of total responses.



From 165 responses, below are some representative comments from school representatives to the question: "What are your school's greatest needs or challenges in continuing or expanding arts instruction? Please be specific."

"Funding changes from year to year making it difficult to create updated, challenging curriculum."

"We need additional time in the instructional day in order to compete against state required courses for graduation and college preparedness... Although high level courses are important, we must find ways to help students remain active in the arts."

"Class sizes are too large. Currently, I am teaching 50 kindergarten students at once and it is going to be quite a challenge."

"We don't receive a budget from our school, so we have to raise funds for everything we need from instruments to music to transportation costs. [E]very team and every organization in our school is in the same boat and is hitting similar groups of people for money... people get fatigued with crowdsourcing and getting donations can get tough."

"Staffing: One band director for middle school and high school, one choir director for middle school and high school, one visual arts teacher for middle school and high school means advanced choices are limited."

From 124 responses to the question, below are a few comments from nonprofits and community organizations in response to the question: "What barriers make it more difficult for your organization to partner with local schools or school districts?"

"Finding the champion in each school. Simply getting responses from school administrators is the most difficult part for us. We aren't quite sure how to navigate the school system, who to contact and start with."

"It is difficult to get into the curriculum which is so tightly scheduled around testing. Mandatory testing during the month of April makes outreach extremely difficult."

"The lack of time and money are our biggest challenges. Teachers have so much that they have to cover in their curriculum that it is challenging to find time to partner with museums and funding cuts for field trips and transportation add another barrier."

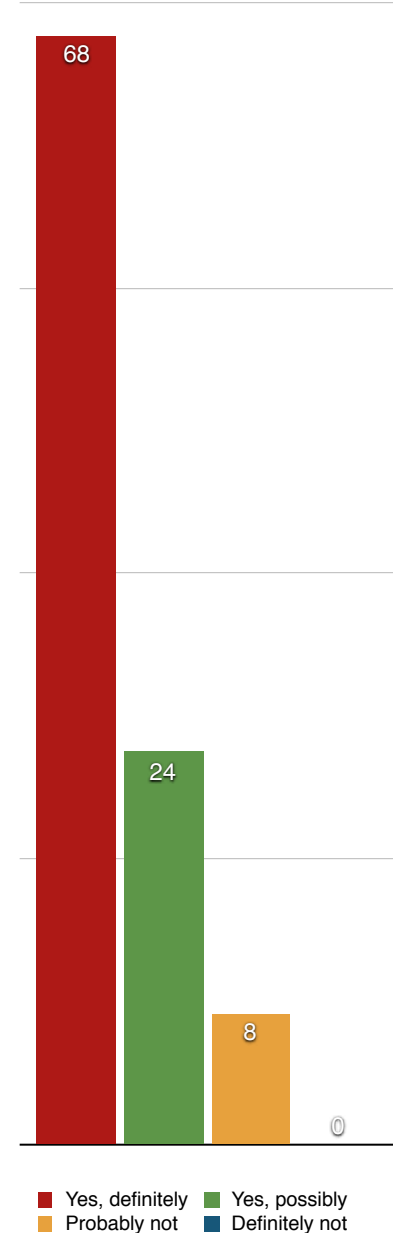
"Time, both on our end and the amount of required curriculum and supporting work required of teachers during the school day."

"A decrease in funding makes it more difficult to meet the needs in this underserved, rural region of the state."



If a nonprofit or community organization could help you provide or expand arts instruction, would you be interested in discussing a possible partnership?

Numbers below are percentages of total responses.





Word cloud generated by teacher responses to the question: “What are your school’s greatest needs or challenges in continuing or expanding arts instruction?”

Why Arts Education?

Research consistently demonstrates the power of arts education in the lives of students. Arts education establishes a foundation for language and reading skills, helps students develop cognitive and problem-solving skills, promotes creativity, improves achievement in areas such as math and science, and positively impacts standardized test scores.

Consistent access to arts education also correlates with increased school attendance and graduation rates, lower disciplinary rates, improved self-confidence, greater civic participation, and more.

Questions?

Contact our Arts Education Director at (405) 521-2931, email us at okarts@arts.ok.gov, or visit arts.ok.gov.