



Association of Leaders
Advancing Early Learning



February 5, 2026

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Chair, Assembly Committee on Education
1021 O Street, Room 1100
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Christopher M. Ward
Chair, Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment,
Sports, and Tourism
1021 O Street, Suite 152
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Strengthening Prop 28 Implementation Through Improved Statewide Instructional Data - February 12, 2026 Informational Hearing

Dear Chairs Muratsuchi and Ward,

We represent the Data4ThePeople (D4TP) Coalition, a statewide coalition of organizations representing advocates, community members, parents and families, students, and educators, united by their dedication to leveraging data to increase racial equity in the state's education system. On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we appreciate the Committees' leadership in convening an informational hearing to highlight promising practices and ongoing implementation challenges of Proposition 28 (The Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act).

As the committees engage in discussions surrounding Proposition 28, we write to highlight a core challenge that has emerged: **while Proposition 28 requires public reporting on how funds are spent, the current reporting is insufficient to determine the full range of available arts education courses (including those funded prior to Proposition 28) or whether—and which—students are accessing arts education opportunities.** Although local educational agencies must report expenditures through a state platform, providing important fiscal transparency, these reports do not capture student course enrollment or a complete picture of K-12 arts education courses at a school site or district. As a result, policymakers, educators, families, and communities have limited visibility into how Proposition 28 investments translate into actual increased instructional opportunities for students, or whether access is equitable across districts, schools, and student groups. Without consistent, statewide instructional data tied to arts participation, the state cannot fully assess access, participation, or equity outcomes under Proposition 28.

To support effective implementation of Proposition 28 and inform future policy and investment decisions, the D4TP Coalition respectfully offers California decision-makers the following policy recommendations:

1) Restore and regularly publish statewide secondary course-level data (not publicly released since the 2018–19 school year), including arts courses.

Statewide course-level data, [last released for the 2018-19 school year](#), is foundational to understanding whether students have meaningful access to arts education and how Proposition 28 has increased that access and reached students equitably. Without current course-level data, the state lacks a baseline to assess access, participation, and disparities across districts, schools, and student groups. We recommend that the California Department of Education (CDE):

- Resume annual statewide publication of course-level datasets, including arts courses, with clear documentation and timely release schedules;
- Ensure the data can be disaggregated to the greatest extent possible, by student race and ethnicity, English learner status, and socioeconomic status, to evaluate equity in access and participation; and
- Provide a public-facing format that is accessible to families, advocates, and local leaders.

2) Report elementary-level course data on all arts instruction.

At the elementary level, arts instruction is not consistently documented at the state level. While schools are [expected to report how Prop 28 funds are spent through an existing reporting platform](#), this information is not currently structured to assess student access to arts instruction. We recommend that the state align these indicators with existing CALPADS reporting requirements to link arts investments to patterns of student access as well as include this reporting in course reporting when it is resumed. Overall, better instructional data at the elementary and secondary levels will allow California to understand where Proposition 28 is expanding access as intended, where inequities remain, and what supports are needed to ensure all students benefit from these state investments.

And relatedly, outside of Prop 28 funding and reporting, we encourage the Department of Education to consider similar reporting approaches to improve visibility into other instructional areas where similar data gaps exist, including multilingual and bilingual education programs and STEM courses.

Thank you for considering our views. We would welcome the opportunity to be a resource as the Committees consider next steps following the hearing.

Sincerely,



Abe Flores
Deputy Director
Create CA



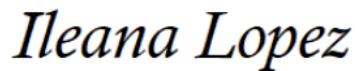
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