

***A Report
on the
Implementation of the Fine Arts Pilot***

*A Report to the 82nd Texas Legislature
from the Texas Education Agency*

December 1, 2010

*Submitted to the Governor,
Lieutenant Governor,
Speaker of the House of Representatives and
Members of the 82nd Texas Legislature*

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Report to the 82nd Legislature on the Fine Arts Pilot Activities

Statutory Authority for this Report

The Texas Administrative Code, Section 28.025, subsection (b-9) (House Bill 3, 81st Texas Legislature, Regular Session) requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to provide the legislature a report regarding the Fine Arts Pilot, including the feasibility of expanding the pilot program statewide.

Statutory Authority and Requirements of the Pilot Program

House Bill 3, passed by the 81st Texas Legislature amended the Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 28.025, by adding Subsection (b-9) regarding establishing a fine arts pilot program to read as follows:

(b-9) The agency shall establish a pilot program allowing a student attending school in a county with a population of more than one million and in which more than 80 percent of the population resides in a single municipality to satisfy the fine arts credit required under Subsection (b-1)(3)(A) by participating in a fine arts program not provided by the school district in which the student is enrolled. The fine arts program may be provided on or off a school campus and outside the regular school day. Not later than December 1, 2010, the agency shall provide to the legislature a report regarding the pilot program, including the feasibility of expanding the pilot program statewide.

Fine Arts Pilot Objective

The objective of the Fine Arts Pilot is to provide students with an opportunity to satisfy the one fine arts credit required for high school graduation under the Minimum, Recommended, or Distinguished Achievement Programs by participating in a fine arts community-based program not provided by the school district in which the student is enrolled. This option will increase flexibility in schedules allowing students to take other courses during the regular school day.

Eligible Districts

Participation in the Fine Arts Pilot was limited to the schools in Bexar County with a population of more than one million and in which more than 80 percent of the population resides in a single municipality to satisfy the fine arts credit graduation requirement. Fifteen (15) independent school districts and twenty-seven (27) charter schools were identified by this definition and are listed in Appendix I. All of the independent school districts and charter schools are in the Education Service Center (ESC) 20 region.

Campus Implementation

The independent school districts and the charter schools in Bexar County were sent a Request for Statement of Interest for the Fine Arts Pilot by email and regular mail (see Appendix II). Participants approved through this application process will begin the pilot in the spring semester of the 2010-2011 school year. The cost for student participation in the community-based fine arts program for the Fine Arts Pilot will be the responsibility of the student/family or may be funded by the student's school district. Districts will be expected to implement the pilot program based on the terms agreed to in the approved application.

The Texas Administrative Code requires districts to provide sufficient time for teachers to teach and students to learn all of the essential knowledge and skills for a given course. As award of credit is based on demonstrated proficiency in the standards and not on seat time, the pilot has been structured to allow a student who participates in the program for the spring semester to earn a full credit in fine arts. This structure will allow TEA to determine the feasibility of successfully and completely addressing all of the standards in a single semester. Participation in the community-based fine arts program during the spring semester may also be combined with a student's previous successful completion of ½ fine arts credit provided that the two fine arts content areas are identical. Successful completion of the Fine Arts Pilot will be recorded as ½-1 credit in the corresponding course under Art, Dance, Music, or Theatre on the student's Academic Achievement Record.

Selection Criteria

Requests for Statements of Interest submitted by school districts will be reviewed by TEA to determine if the selection criteria have been met satisfactorily. Selection will be determined based upon compliance within the guidelines of the Fine Arts Pilot application. Review of Requests for Statements of Interest will begin as soon as possible after receipt of the documents. Each Request for Statement of Interest will be reviewed to determine the capability of the participant to satisfy the requirements of the Fine Arts Pilot.

Particular attention will be addressed to the following selection criteria:

- The community-based Fine Arts Pilot must address all of the student expectations in all four strands of the Fine Arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Art, Dance, Music, or Theatre. The four strands of the Fine Arts TEKS are as follows:
 - Perception;
 - Creative Expression/Performance;
 - Historical/Cultural Heritage; and
 - Response/Evaluation.

- The program may not be an individualized endeavor, such as private instruction/lessons.
- Students may not be dismissed from the regular school day to participate in the community-based fine arts program for the Fine Arts Pilot and is intended only for students in grades 9-12 – not students who intend to complete the one credit fine arts graduation requirement prior to grade 9.
- The statute related to the Fine Arts Pilot states that the program may “satisfy fine arts credit” for high school graduation. Therefore, the community-based fine arts program may satisfy the one credit fine arts graduation requirement, but not elective credits.
- The community-based fine arts program for the Fine Arts Pilot must be approved by the school district board of trustees and superintendent to ensure that the program is of high quality and is well-supervised by appropriately trained staff.

The deadline for the application process is December 8, 2010. TEA has not received any applications of as of November 30, 2010.

Feasibility of Expansion

The Commissioner of Education is currently authorized to permit local school districts and charters to award credit to students who complete an off-campus physical education program. There are 77 districts/charters with approval to offer an off-campus physical education program for credit during the 2010-2011 school year. Interested local school districts and charters submit an application for approval to the Commissioner of Education. The application and instructions are available on the TEA website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147486244>.

The local school districts or charter personnel evaluate the programs selected for off-campus physical education programs according to 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 74. Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter F, Graduation Requirements, Beginning with School Year 2007-2008 (<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074f.html>). Approval to submit an application is obtained from the superintendent of the local school district or charter. The application is submitted electronically and applicants receive an electronic acknowledgment of receipt within five working days. Subsequent correspondence addressed to the superintendent provides information regarding approval or denial of the request from the Commissioner’s designee.

Each local school district or charter that obtains approval is required to conduct annual evaluations to determine the continued need for and effectiveness of the off-campus physical education programs. The evaluations are not sent to TEA. TEA does not approve or

recommend procedures for local school districts or charters to use in implementing their accountability and evaluation procedures.

On average, the agency receives 20 applications from local school districts/charters to award credit for off-campus physical education programs each year. A special Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) code is assigned to this option, allowing districts to award credit upon determination that a student has satisfactorily completed the requirements of the program. Local school districts or charters are approved for three years and are notified by TEA staff one-year prior to the expiration date of their approval to allow sufficient time for submission of an application for renewal.

TEA has determined that it would be reasonably feasible to implement a similar system statewide allowing students to earn fine arts credit through this alternate option. As with traditional courses, it would be the responsibility of the local school district to determine that a student has demonstrated proficiency in all of the student expectations of the Fine Arts TEKS for a currently approved high school fine arts course in order to award that student credit toward graduation for successful participation in a community-based fine arts program.

Following the spring implementation of the pilot TEA will determine whether the criteria for approval of a program warrant adjustment.

Appendix I

| Independent School District (ISD)/Charter School | |
|--|---|
| Academy of Careers and Technologies Charter School | New Frontiers Charter School |
| Alamo Heights ISD | North East ISD |
| Bexar County Academy | Northside ISD |
| Brooks Academy of Science and Engineering | Por Vida Academy |
| City Center Health Careers | Positive Solutions Charter School |
| East Central ISD | Radiance Academy of Learning |
| Edgewood ISD | Randolph Field ISD |
| Fort Sam Houston ISD | San Antonio Can High School |
| George Gervin Academy | San Antonio ISD |
| George I. Sanchez Charter High School San Antonio Branch | San Antonio Preparatory Academy |
| Guardian Angel Performance Arts Academy | San Antonio School for Inquiry & Creativity |
| Harlandale ISD | San Antonio Technology Academy |
| Harmony Science Academy (San Antonio) | School of Excellence in Education |
| Henry Ford Academy Alameda School for Art + Design | School of Science and Technology |
| Higgs Carter King Gifted & Talented Charter Academy | School of Science and Technology Discovery |
| John H. Wood Jr. Public Charter District | Shekinah Radiance Academy |
| Jubilee Academic center | Somerset ISD |
| Judson ISD | South San Antonio ISD |
| KIPP San Antonio | Southside ISD |
| Lackland ISD | Southwest ISD |
| Lighthouse Charter School | Southwest Preparatory School |

Request for Statement of Interest

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
FINE ARTS PILOT

Authorized by
Texas Education Code (TEC) §28.025 (b-9)

Texas Education Agency
William B. Travis Building
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701-1494

Dated Material – Open Immediately

Closing Date – **December 8, 2010, 5:00 p.m. CDT**

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REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY FINE ARTS PILOT

I. PURPOSE OF REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST

As per Section 30 (b-9) of House Bill 3, which was passed during the 81st Texas legislative session, and in accordance with local school district policy, a student attending school in a county with a population of more than one million and in which more than 80 percent of the population resides in a single municipality may satisfy the one fine arts credit required for high school graduation by participating in a fine arts community-based program not provided by the school district in which the student is enrolled. The fine arts community-based program may be provided on or off a school campus and must occur outside the regular school day. School districts must apply to the Commissioner of Education for approval of a community-based fine arts program to satisfy the one credit of fine arts required for high school graduation under the Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished Achievement Programs. This legislation is prescribed in Texas Education Code §28.025 (b-9).

According to data obtained from the Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, only one Texas county/municipality meets the population requirements for the Fine Arts Pilot: Bexar County. Implementation of the Fine Arts Pilot will occur during the 2011 spring semester of the 2010-2011 school year.

II. REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST INFORMATION

A. REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST

This Request for Statement of Interest provides the opportunity for Texas school districts and charter schools in Bexar County to notify the Texas Education Agency (TEA) of interest to participate in the Fine Arts Pilot. Participating school districts, in collaboration with TEA, will identify the parameters for measuring the effectiveness of the pilot. Data will be collected by TEA during the first year of the Fine Arts Pilot, and a report describing the effectiveness of the pilot will be provided to the Texas Legislature.

B. FINE ARTS PILOT ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

All public school districts and charter schools in Bexar County are eligible to submit a Request for Statement of Interest for the Fine Arts Pilot.

C. FINE ARTS PILOT FUNDING

Cost for student participation in the community-based fine arts program for the Fine Arts Pilot will be the responsibility of the student/family or may be funded by the student's school district.

D. FINE ARTS PILOT OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Fine Arts Pilot is to provide students with an opportunity to satisfy the one fine arts credit required for high school graduation under the Minimum, Recommended, or Distinguished Achievement Programs by participating in a fine arts community-based program not provided by the school district in which the student is enrolled.

E. FINE ARTS PILOT EXPECTATIONS

- School districts must apply to the Commissioner of Education for approval of a community-based fine arts program for students to satisfy the one credit of fine arts required for high school graduation under the Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished Achievement Programs.
- The community-based fine arts program may be art, dance, music, or theatre and may be provided on- or off-campus. The program may not be an individualized endeavor, such as private instruction/lessons.
- The community-based fine arts program must address all of the student expectations in all four strands of the Fine Arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Art, Dance, Music, or Theatre. The four strands of the Fine Arts TEKS are as follows:
 - Perception;
 - Creative Expression/Performance;
 - Historical/Cultural Heritage; and
 - Response/Evaluation.
- The Fine Arts Pilot will occur during the 2011 spring semester of the 2010-2011 school year. The state does not designate the amount of instructional time for any academic discipline, including fine arts. Consequently, a student may earn ½-1 credit through the community-based fine arts program during the spring semester. Participation in the community-based fine arts program during the spring semester may also be combined with a student's previous successful completion of ½ fine arts credit provided that the two fine arts content areas are identical. Successful completion of the Fine Arts Pilot will be recorded as ½-1 credit in the corresponding course under Art, Dance, Music, or Theatre on the student's Academic Achievement Record.
- Students may not be dismissed from the regular school day to participate in the community-based fine arts program for the Fine Arts Pilot and is intended only for students in grades 9-12 – not students who intend to complete the one credit fine arts graduation requirement prior to grade 9.
- The statute related to the Fine Arts Pilot states that the program may “satisfy fine arts credit” for high school graduation. Therefore, the community-based fine arts program may satisfy the one credit fine arts graduation requirement, but not elective credits.
- School districts will be required to provide a report to the Commissioner of Education at the conclusion of the school year that includes data pertaining to the Fine Arts Pilot (e.g., number of participating students, number of successful completions, etc.).

III. CONDITIONS FOR SUBMITTING REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST

To be considered for participation in the Fine Arts Pilot, the following conditions will apply:

- Information submitted that addresses only part of the requirements contained in this Request for Statement of Interest will not be considered for participation in the Fine Arts Pilot.
- TEA reserves the right to reject any and all Requests for Statements of Interest and to negotiate portions thereof.
- The participant and/or school district shall furnish such additional information that TEA may require.
- TEA shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation or submittal of the Request for Statement of Interest and implementation of the Fine Arts Pilot.
- TEA will notify each school district in writing of the selection or non-selection to participate in the Fine Arts Pilot.

NOTE: TEA reserves the right to make specific selections from among all qualified school districts. Completion of this Request for Statement of Interest does not obligate TEA to select the school district.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST (Schedule A)

A. RECEIPT OF REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST

The deadline for receipt of the Request for Statement of Interest for the Fine Arts Pilot is no later than **5:00 p.m. CDT on December 8, 2010**. The Request for Statement of Interest must be submitted to TEA via mail, fax, or e-mail as an attachment. Indicate "Fine Arts Pilot Application" in the "Subject" area of the e-mail and "(School District) Fine Arts Pilot 2010" as the title of the attachment. The e-mail is to be addressed to curriculum@tea.state.tx.us.

The application may also be mailed or faxed to the following:

Thomas H. Waggoner
Director of Fine Arts
Division of Curriculum
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701-1494
FAX: (512) 463-8057

B. FINE ARTS PILOT STARTING DATE

The Fine Arts Pilot will occur during the 2011 spring semester of the 2010-2011 school year. Data collection for the pilot may continue through June 1, 2011.

V. ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPANTS

A. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL AND/OR CLARIFYING INFORMATION

Any person wishing to obtain additional and/or clarifying information pertaining to this Request for Statement of Interest and/or the Fine Arts Pilot should contact:

Thomas H. Waggoner
Director of Fine Arts
Division of Curriculum
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701-1494
512-463-9595
Thomas.Waggoner@tea.state.tx.us

VI. SELECTION CRITERIA

Requests for Statements of Interest submitted by school districts will be reviewed by TEA to determine if the selection criteria have been met satisfactorily. Selection will be determined based upon compliance with the guidelines of the Fine Arts Pilot outlined in this document. Review of Requests for Statements of Interest will begin as soon as possible after receipt of the documents. Each Request for Statement of Interest will be reviewed to determine the capability of the participant to satisfy the requirements of the Fine Arts Pilot program.

All required components of this Request for Statement of Interest must be addressed. Each school district submitting a Request for Statement of Interest will be notified in writing of selection or non-selection to participate in the Fine Arts Pilot.

Particular attention will be addressed to the following selection criteria:

The community-based fine arts program must address all of the student expectations in all four strands of the Fine Arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Art, Dance, Music, or Theatre. The four strands of the Fine Arts TEKS are as follows:

- Perception;
- Creative Expression/Performance;
- Historical/Cultural Heritage; and
- Response/Evaluation.

Additional Required Information (attach to schedule A):

1. Description – school district goals and objectives for participating in the Fine Arts Pilot;
2. List of fine arts courses offered in grades 9-12 in the school district;

3. Enrollment in fine arts courses in grades 9-12 in the school district;
4. School District Contact – a fine arts contact person who will be the single point of contact for all interactions at the school district; and
5. School District Commitment to Fine Arts Pilot – the school district commitment to full participation for the duration of the pilot; the school district's willingness to evaluate and provide information throughout the pilot to assist with the TEA report to the legislature.

**VII. SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY-BASED FINE ARTS PROGRAM
INFORMATION**

Complete and submit the information requested below by the deadline date of
Wednesday, December 8, 2010.

School District Information:

School District _____

Mailing Address _____

Superintendent _____

Fine Arts Contact Person _____

Title _____

Telephone Number_(____) _____

Fax Number_(____) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Date of Board of Trustees Approval _____

Date Application Submitted _____

Community-Based Fine Arts Program Information:

Community-Based Fine Arts Program _____

Mailing Address _____

Program Contact Person _____

Title _____

Fine Arts Content Area(s) _____
(Art/Dance/Music/Theatre)

Telephone Number_(____) _____

Fax Number_(____) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Website Address _____

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
FINE ARTS PILOT – Schedule A

VIII. School District Commitment

I understand that the Fine Arts Pilot will occur during the 2011 spring semester of the 2010-2011 school year. Our school district's board of trustees has approved participation in this pilot. Furthermore, the community-based fine arts program for the Fine Arts Pilot will address all of the student expectations in all four strands of the Fine Arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Art, Dance, Music, or Theatre. Our school district will cooperate with the Texas Education Agency to provide requested data within the timeframes specified by the Agency and will participate in the evaluation of the pilot. My school district will collect data and report this information as requested by the Agency and provide reports to the State of Texas on a regular and as needed basis.

On behalf of:

School District Name

I hereby certify that the attached information to this request is correct to the best of my knowledge, and I agree to the conditions as listed in this Statement of Interest and in this Conditions of Participation.

Superintendent Signature

Date

Superintendent Printed/Typed Name

Date