

# EXPANDING ARTS ACCESS IN RURAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## *FY26 Grant Guidelines*

### Purpose

This grant opportunity supports Idaho rural school districts and rural charter schools in providing fine arts, performing arts, and design programs. Funds granted are intended to increase access to arts education for K-12 learners in rural public schools that otherwise may lack the resources to offer or expand such programs.

### Eligibility and Restrictions

An applicant must be an Idaho rural school district or Idaho rural charter school as defined in [Idaho Code, Title 33, Chapter 3, Section 33-319](#).

Each eligible rural school district or rural charter school may submit one application (i.e., one application per rural school district and one application per rural charter school.) Applicants are advised to coordinate one grant request across schools and programs.

Applications must be submitted by leadership of the district or charter school. Applications from individual teachers without leadership endorsement are ineligible. Multiple applications from the same district or charter school will not be funded.

### Request Amount

Applicants may request up to \$4,000 in one-time, non-matching funds.

### Submission Period

Applications may be submitted from August 29, 2025 to September 30, 2025.

### Grant Period

Funds are active November 3, 2024-June 30, 2026.

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### Eligible Uses of Funds

Funds may be used to purchase equipment, supplies, and curricular materials that support the establishment of, or improvements to arts education programs. The needs of multiple schools, departments, and programs may be included in a single application.

### Examples of Eligible Uses of Funds

The following are some examples of eligible uses of funds. The grants may support—but are not limited to—the following:

- Purchase of online curriculum materials in the arts.
- Purchase of technology and software to offer fine and performing arts courses, and design courses that are not part of the Career and Technical Education curriculum.
- Purchase and repair of instruments to start or expand a band or orchestra program in multiple schools.
- Purchase of materials to upgrade or enhance set design capabilities for a theatre program.
- Visual art equipment and supplies such as stools, easels, paints, and brushes.
- Purchase of a printing press to offer a printmaking course.
- Purchase of a kiln and ceramic supplies.

### Funding Restrictions

Funds may not be used for the following purposes:

- Personnel or instructional contracted services costs.
- Professional development activities.
- Design courses that are part of the Career and Technical Education curriculum.

### Application Components

Applications are submitted through [Reviewr](#). Completed applications will include the following required components:

- District or charter school registration in Reviewr, requiring pre-approval during normal business hours.
- Applicant general information and approval of the grant application submission by an authorizing official.
- Answers to the following five narrative questions:
  1. Request summary: Brief summary of request <100 characters
  2. Population served and need to be addressed: Briefly describe your school district or charter school, the population this grant would serve, and the needs this grant would help to meet. (max. 250 words)

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3. Proposal Description: Briefly describe how you intend to use the funds. (max. 250 words)
  4. Anticipated Demand: Describe anticipated student demand for the course or programs supported by this grant request. (max. 200 words)
  5. Sustainability Plan: Provide a sustainability plan for ongoing support of the arts curricula supported by this grant request. (max. 250 words)
- Budget form that asks for itemized expenses and a grant request amount. The maximum grant request is \$3,500.
  - Additional attachments illustrating request are optional.

### Process

This grant opportunity is administered by Idaho State Board of Education in collaboration with the Idaho Commission on the Arts.

Grant applications are submitted through the online [Reviewr](https://my.reviewr.com) portal of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. The grant guidelines and application forms may be found here:

<https://my.reviewr.com>. Final funding decisions are made by the Idaho State Board of Education.

Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and recommendations for funding will be made by the Idaho State Board of Education. Applicants will be notified of process results in October 2025.

### Project Change Requests

Applications who wish to request approval for changes to their approved grant spending plan will email [nwagner@edu.idaho.gov](mailto:nwagner@edu.idaho.gov). Change requests include a summary of the proposed change and an updated project budget.

### Final Report

This grant requires a final report, including a summary of project impact and a list of itemized expenses, to be submitted upon project completion or by July 31, 2025, whichever comes first through the Idaho Commission on the Arts web portal at

<https://my.reviewr.com>.

### Return of Unspent Funds

Awardees who do not expend all grant funds must note this in the final report. All unspent funds should be returned to the State of Idaho. Awardees with unspent funds will be directed to mail a paper check along with a description regarding the return of funds to Idaho State Board of Education, ATTN: Fiscal. 650 W State Street, Room 307, Boise, ID 83702.

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### Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- The learning needs of the population served are clearly stated.
- The proposal addresses these learning needs.
- The applicant provides a plan to sustain the activities supported by this grant application.
- The budget for the use of funds is clear, complete, and supports the need as stated.

### Funding Priority

Awards for eligible applications will be prioritized as follows until available funds are fully committed:

- First Priority: Applications from districts and charter schools that were not funded through this grant opportunity in the prior year.
- Second Priority: For prior-year recipients of this grant opportunity, earliest applications by date and time of submission.