Merced County Office of Education
Prop 28: Arts and Music in Schools Funding Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2025-26

Name: Merced Co. Office of Education

CDS Code: 2410249-0000000
Allocation Year:2025-2026, 2024-25, 2023-24

Narrative description of the Prop 28 arts education program(s) funded for the 2025-26 school year:

The Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) oversees and operates a wide range of specialized educational programs in both Special Education and Student Programs. These services are designed to support a diverse student population across Merced County, including students in special education, alternative education settings, and juvenile justice facilities.

To expand access to arts education, MCOE partnered with the Merced Multicultural Arts Center to bring professional artists into classrooms to lead engaging and culturally responsive lessons across multiple artistic disciplines.

Through Proposition 28 funding, MCOE was able to purchase art supplies and materials and expand arts instruction to four additional Student Programs. These programs serve students in grades 6–12, as well as adult learners ages 18 and older, working toward completing their educational goals. In addition, 45 Special Education classrooms serving students from preschool through age 22 participated in enriching art and music activities. This expansion significantly increased opportunities for students to engage in creative learning experiences that may not otherwise have been available within these programs.

Students received a minimum of one lesson per week in Student Programs and one lesson per month in Special Education classrooms across a variety of artistic disciplines, including:

- 2D and 3D Visual Arts & Props
- Theater Arts/Drama
- Dance, including Polynesian, Breakdance, Hip Hop, and Jazz
- Art and Literature
- Guitar Lessons
- Music

The expansion of arts programming has had a positive impact across Student Programs and Special Education. Students have demonstrated increased engagement, enthusiasm, and interest in participating in arts activities, with sessions tailored to meet learners' developmental and educational needs. Many students who previously had limited exposure to arts education have embraced these opportunities, and participation continues to grow as interest spreads throughout the programs.

Proposition 28 funding has played a critical role in expanding access to the arts, supporting student creativity, and providing meaningful enrichment opportunities for students within MCOE's Student Programs and Special Education programs. Through this initiative, Proposition 28 funding has significantly expanded opportunities for students with special needs to explore creative expression. Many students with disabilities, particularly those in specialized settings, would not have had access to these programs without this support, demonstrating the transformative power of the arts in education.

1.	Number of full-time equivalent teachers (certificated).	0

2.	Number of full-time equivalent teachers (classified).	0
3.	Number of full-time equivalent teaching aides.	0
4.	Number of students served.	1270 students.
5.	Number of school sites providing arts education.	94 school sites.

The Prop. 28 Annual Report can be found on our website at:

https://www.mcoe.org/departments-programs/sped/se-public-notices
https://www.mcoe.org/departments-programs/educational-services/student-programs/mcoe-public-postings-clone