

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Fine Arts Mentoring Program

In 2016, as part of the [FY 2017 Education Appropriations Bill](#) (Senate File 2323), the General Assembly enacted the Fine Arts Mentoring Program. Iowa Code section [256.34](#) requires the Department of Education to establish a Fine Arts Beginning Teacher Mentoring Program under a contract with an Iowa-based nonprofit organization to support beginning fine arts teachers in Iowa schools and creates a Beginning Teacher Mentoring Fund to be administered by the Department.

Eligibility for Contract

To be eligible for the contract to administer the Program, a nonprofit organization must meet the following requirements:

- Be based in Iowa.
- Be classified by the federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501(c)(3) for tax purposes.
- Have membership from the six state fine arts organizations representing kindergarten through grade 12 general music, choral music, instrumental music, visual arts, and drama and theater arts educators.
- Have administered a federally funded statewide fine arts mentoring program since 2006.

The Department will contract with the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education. The Director of the Department may for good cause suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a contract with the nonprofit organization.

Requirements of the Program

The program provided by the nonprofit organization must include all of the following:

- Activities and consultation in support of beginning fine arts teachers employed in Iowa's school districts, including but not limited to guidance in the classroom and at meetings, and resources of materials, time, and financial scholarship for state conferences that will support a beginning fine arts teacher's effectiveness in the classroom.
- Coordination of retired and currently employed experienced fine arts mentor educators with beginning fine arts educators.
- Materials and advice specifically designed to prepare beginning fine arts teachers for success in the fine arts classroom and to prepare kindergarten through grade 12 students for school district fine arts performances and festivals.

The nonprofit organization must provide quarterly reports detailing the organization's compliance with the above requirements and expenditures for the Program.

Funding

In FY 2017, the first year of the Program, the state has appropriated \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Beginning Teacher Mentoring Fund. The Department is allowed to accept private contributions and state and federal funds to deposit in the Fund. The Program has a required match of \$1 provided by the nonprofit organization for each \$1 provided by the Department.

Related Statute

Iowa Code section [256.34](#)

Revised August 31, 2016

More Information

Iowa Alliance for Arts Education: <http://www.iowaalliance4artsed.org>

Iowa Department of Education: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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