

BUDGET-TO-ACTION COMPANION WORKSHEET

BALTIMORE ADVOCATES FOR ARTS EDUCATION

What Did You Learn About Fine Arts at Your School?

Use this sheet as you work through the BA4AE Arts Budget-to-Action Toolkit.

You don't have to answer everything at once- or know all the answers. Record what you know, note what you still need to ask, and come back to this sheet as you learn more.

School: _____

School Year: _____

Date: _____

1 | KNOW THE GUIDANCE

Fine Arts Staffing

Use the district's School Budget Guidance to answer what you can.

What Fine Arts staffing is recommended for a school of your size?

What types of Fine Arts instruction are students expected to receive?

- ☐ Visual Art
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Instrumental Music
- ☐ Theatre
- ☐ Dance
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ I'm not sure

Notes: _____

Does the guidance identify minimum staffing expectations?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

If yes, what are they?

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How does school enrollment affect Fine Arts staffing?

What do you still need to find out?

2 | ASK & ENGAGE

Ask About Staffing

What Fine Arts staffing was included in our approved school budget?

Are all of those positions currently filled?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Some are
- ☐ I don't know

If not, which positions are not filled?

Does our current Fine Arts staffing reflect the district's Budget Guidance?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

What did you find?

Ask About Resources

What funding was budgeted for Fine Arts materials and instruction?

Are those funds being spent according to the approved budget?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

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What did you learn?

Do our arts educators have the materials, supplies, instruments and equipment they need?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

What's needed?

Ask About Opportunities

What Fine Arts opportunities are available to students?

Does our school offer instrumental music?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

If not, what would be needed to provide instrumental music?

Ask About Decision-Making

When will families have an opportunity to provide input into next year's school budget?

How can families participate before staffing and funding decisions are finalized?

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Keep Track of Your Questions

Whom did you ask?

- ☐ Principal
- ☐ School leadership
- ☐ Arts educator
- ☐ School Family Council
- ☐ Other: _____

Date: _____

What did you learn?

Is there anything you still need to ask or follow up on?

3 | CHECK FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

What was budgeted should reach students?

Now use what you've learned to look at the three questions at the heart of BA4AE's Accountability priority.

WHAT WAS BUDGETED?

What Fine Arts staffing, resources, materials, or opportunities were included in your school's approved budget?

WHAT WAS SPENT?

What have you been able to learn about whether Fine Arts funds were spent according to the approved budget?

- ☐ I was able to find this information.
- ☐ I found some of this information.
- ☐ I could not determine how the funds were spent.

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WHAT DID STUDENTS ACTUALLY RECEIVE?

What Fine Arts staffing, programs, instruction, materials and opportunities are actually available to students?

4 | WHAT DOES YOUR EXPERIENCE SHOW?

Does what students are receiving reflect what was included in the approved budget?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know yet

What appears to be working well?

Did you identify a need, concern or gap?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

If yes, what did you find?

Is there information you still haven't been able to get?

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5 | WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NEXT?

You don't have to do everything. Choose the action(s) that works best for you. Every action is important.

- ☐ Ask another question at my school.
- ☐ Talk with other families about what I learned.
- ☐ Share what I found with BA4AE.
- ☐ Attend the October 21st School Board Meeting / Arts Night.
- ☐ Submit written testimony.
- ☐ Sign up to speak during public comment.
- ☐ Bring another family or community member to Arts Night.
- ☐ Contact School Board members.
- ☐ Other: _____

COME INFORMED. SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE. ADD YOUR VOICE.

Strong Arts Programs Need Strong District Support.