

As of July 30, 2007:

Parent Handbook for Visual and Performing Arts – There are Parent Handbooks for History/Social Science, English-Language Arts, Mathematics and Science that are available on the CDE website. During 2007-2008 a like handbook will be created for Visual and Performing Arts. Should you or someone you know wish to provide input as to what they believe is important to have included in that handbook, please have them contact Nancy. It is hoped this book will be posted on the CDE website, along with the others, for the school year 2008-2009.

Literature for the Visual and Performing Arts, K-12 – The 1996 addition of this CDE published book will be revised during the 2007-2008 school year. Currently CDE is looking for individuals that would be willing to review the books submitted for consideration to be included in the book. At the same time CDE is looking for book titles, appropriate to the visual and performing arts, to be submitted for inclusion consideration. Both forms, to submit to be a reviewer AND to submit book titles, have been previously sent to County Arts Leads throughout the state. If you would wish to receive those forms, please contact Nancy. The books included in this Literature companion to the Visual and Performing Arts Framework will be as inclusive as per the submitted titles. Reviewers will meet for two days in October or November for review training. They will meet again in the spring to finalize submission inclusion. Work between the two 2-day sessions will be on the reviewers own time back at their home or school site. Travel, hotel and meal expenses for the two 2-day sessions will be reimbursed by CDE. For additional questions around this work please contact Maxine Wheeler at mwheeler@cde.ca.gov.

Update on 2006-07 Final Payment for the \$105 million Arts and Music Block Grant

The final 2006-07 payment for the Arts and Music Block Grant is now expected to be distributed in September/October 2007. Earlier information indicated that the final 2006-07 payment would be distributed to LEAs in July of 2007. The distribution date has been amended to obtain clarification around the CBEDS/PAIF school enrollment data, necessary to accurately calculate the 25% final payment for 2006-07. Should you have questions, please contact Nancy

Funding for 2007-2008, the Arts and Music Block Grant for \$109,727,000, is still in the state budget and received Assembly approval July 19, 2007. It is now in the Senate for approval. We shall hope that the Prop 98 funding, that was left untouched by the Assembly, will likewise be left untouched by the Senate. As soon as there is an approved budget by the Assembly and Senate we will know the position of the Arts and Music Block Grant. Then, as soon as the Governor signs it, then the budget language will become final.

Within that budget language around the Arts and Music Block Grant, there is wording, that is "draft" at this time, about disbursement of funds and monitoring of

the use of the funds. Once the budget language becomes final CDE will begin working on clarification of that language and that message will be delivered by CDE. The monitoring is for 2007-2008 and not 2006-2007. School Services' report had many districts concerned they had to go back and pull stats for 2006-2007.

The disbursement of funds budget language refers to 2007-2008 funding, not 2006-2007; the School Services' report had many districts thinking they had to go back and hold a public meeting around the 2006-2007 funds. The draft budget language states that districts that make the decision to retain these funds rather than disburse the funds to school sites (which is logical for items such as teacher hiring and providing professional development for their visual and performing arts teachers) need to provide their school board with a resolution around the use of the funds and intended use of the funds. The school board will need to adopt that resolution. All groups the district works with around this fund, such as District Arts Teams, School Site Councils, PTAs, will need to be notified of the public meeting where this resolution will be presented and adopted by the school board. I know many districts were concerned as to why this was being asked when they already have very collaboratively worked with administration, principals, teachers, their PTA, School Site Council and District Arts Teams as well as their community. I would say that this added budget language is there to indicate to districts that 1) having evaluated their current arts education program and 2) created an arts education plan 5-8 years down the road, they can then 3) determine wise leveraging of this fund to have 4) well prepared teachers to instruct in the arts and have 5) the supplies, books and equipment they need to do that, is an action the legislators look to be a collaborative one and all involved need to be informed.

Now we await the 2007-2008 state budget and see what it contains in its final approved and signed form. Should you or your districts have questions, please let Nancy know.