

# FAQS

*We are sure you and your advocates have a lot of questions, here are a few answers below to get you started.*

## **FROM WHERE DID THE DATA COME?**

The data for this dashboard is collected from Oklahoma school districts in a yearly accreditation report. The data is self-reported and may include reporting errors.

## **HOW DO I REPORT INACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT MY SCHOOL?**

If you see inaccurate information, contact the [website moderators](#).

## **WHY ARE THE TOTAL ARTS STUDENT NUMBERS DIFFERENT ON THE OVERVIEW TAB AND THE ARTS DISCIPLINES TAB?**

The Overview tab counts every student as one student, even if they are taking multiple arts classes. For example, a student who is enrolled in concert choir and art I is counted as one arts student in the Overview tab. On the Arts Disciplines tab, you'll see a higher number for the total of arts students because that student is counted in every discipline area they are enrolled in (so the student is counted once for music and once for visual arts).

## **WHY DON'T I SEE ANY INFORMATION FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES?**

In Oklahoma and across the nation, middle school classes are part of the PK-8 elementary grade span. Therefore, middle school visual art classes are reported as "ES Art," middle school band classes are reported as "ES Band," etc. The enrollment numbers for those courses include all students in grades PK-8. To understand the middle school enrollment for a certain course, look at enrollment by grade level or filter a view for a certain middle school site.

## **AS A PARENT, HOW DOES THIS SITE HELP ME?**

We know your student's education is important to you, including their arts education. The dashboard can be a tool to be used for advocacy for the arts for your school. We recommend the following tabs:

### **SCHOOL PROFILE TAB**

This tab contains specific arts information on the school your child attends or will be attending.

### **COURSE FINDER TAB**

This can be used to search for a school in your area that offers a specific subject area.

### **DISCIPLINES OFFERED TAB**

This gives families an overall view of what subjects are offered in schools across the state.

## **AS AN ADMINISTRATOR, HOW DOES THIS SITE HELP ME?**

The Oklahoma Arts Education Data Dashboard offers administrators an almost overwhelming amount of information. The dashboard can be a tool to be used for advocacy for the arts for your school. Some recommended tabs include:

### **STATE OVERVIEW TAB**

This view allows you to look at the state by county and make comparisons between districts.

### **DISTRICT-LEVEL ARTS TAB**

This tab allows you to zoom into more specific information at the district level.

### **YEAR-OVER-YEAR & TRENDS OVER TIME TAB**

These may be helpful if you are looking for changes in your district or other districts.

### **SCHOOL PROFILE & DISTRICT/SCHOOL COMPARISONS TAB**

These tabs offer specific information about districts across the state.

## **WHY DO CERTAIN DISTRICTS SEEM TO HAVE INACCURATE TEACHER NUMBERS?**

Within the dashboard, a majority of teachers reported are teachers who are teaching the arts for the full school day and have a degree in the area they are teaching. Some elementary classroom teachers with older certifications may have been reported as teaching music or visual art due to the different certification expectations of that time. In the future, the Oklahoma State Department of Education will work with districts to clarify the reporting of teacher data, especially those teachers with older certifications.

## MY CHILD'S SCHOOL/DISTRICT DOESN'T OFFER ARTS CLASSES OR DOESN'T OFFER THE SUBJECT IN WHICH THEY ARE INTERESTED. HOW DO I CHANGE THIS?

Advocacy is a good place to start. Perhaps your district administration or board of education isn't aware of your concerns. Visit the advocacy sites below to learn more about what you can do in your local area.

- [nafme.org](http://nafme.org)
- [arteducators.org](http://arteducators.org)
- [schooltheatre.org](http://schooltheatre.org)
- [ndeo.org](http://ndeo.org)
- [americansforthearts.org](http://americansforthearts.org)

## WHY ARE SOME SCHOOLS MISSING?

The dashboard does not include charter schools or Career Tech sites in the data. Charter schools were excluded because they do not follow the same expectations as traditional public schools; namely, their teachers do not need to be certified in a subject area in order to teach it. For example, some charter schools may have math certified teachers teaching visual art or elementary certified teachers teaching high school band. Those educators may be excelling in their positions, but as this dashboard focuses on arts education taught by certified arts educators, the inclusion of those teachers would skew the data. In the case of virtual charter schools, one educator would be counted for one single student, artificially inflating the number of Oklahoma arts educators by hundreds if not thousands.

Career Tech offerings were also excluded from the dashboard. Career Tech sites fill a void for many districts when it comes to arts classes, but since these courses are often taught away from the high school and may only be available to certain students, they do not represent an equitable arts education.

## OKLAHOMA STATE EDUCATION POLICY

Oklahoma statute includes the following: *School districts shall develop and implement curriculum, courses, and instruction in order to ensure that students meet the skills and competencies as set forth in this section and in the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Students, therefore, shall study social studies, literature, languages, the arts, mathematics, and science (70 O.S. 11-103.6).*

## OKLAHOMA STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

In Oklahoma, one fine arts course credit is required for high school graduation (70 O.S. 11-103.6).

Oklahoma high school college preparatory/work ready students shall complete the following college preparatory/work ready curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

- One unit or set of competencies of fine arts, such as music, art, or drama, or one unit or set of competencies of speech.

Oklahoma high school core students shall complete the following core curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

- Arts - One unit or set of competencies which may include, but is not limited to, courses in visual arts and general music.

Fine arts includes dance, drama/theatre, music, or visual art. Classes in any of the four subject areas will meet graduation requirements for either graduation pathway.

## COURSE NAMES

Throughout the report, Oklahoma State Department of Education subject code names are used for dance, drama/theatre, music, and visual art. The current codes are available on the [OSDE Accreditation site](#) under Documents-Subject Codes. More information on fine arts course codes and course descriptions may be found on the [OSDE Fine Arts Course Codes site](#).