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TTA Position: AMS Funding and Support

TTA's position is based on the following guiding principles:

- All stakeholders should have a place to offer feedback and professional expertise.
- Teachers represent a huge wealth of “in the trenches” professional expertise that should always be consulted in matters of educational importance.
- Concerns and questions should be encouraged and viewed as critical information that is positive and central to the process rather than seen as a sign of dissent.
- True educational debate and discussion provides a broad base for clarification of purpose and products for the highest good.

To these ends, TTA formally adopts the following position regarding recurring allocation of Arts and Music in Our Schools (AMS) funding and continued support of the visual and performing arts. TTA asserts that there is a lack of a clearly defined process for effectively allocating AMS funding at both the elementary and secondary levels. This presents long-term challenges in vertical alignment, underscoring the need to establish a solid foundation and clarifying expectations for Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) education in grades TK-12. TTA suggest the following process:

Transparent Budget Planning and Communication

- Implement a clear and uniform process, which includes all stakeholders for allocating, distributing, and accessing AMS funding at all sites and levels.
- Ensure that VAPA educators at all levels are trained in AMS requirements and procedures and are consulted and included in the AMS budgeting and allocation process at their site.
- Present semi-annual AMS budget and initiatives reports in school board meetings, including specific allocations of funding for staffing, materials/equipment, and facilities improvements.

Develop a Cohesive TK-12 Visual & Performing Arts Pathway

- Ensure clear vertical alignment across elementary to secondary arts programs by providing curriculum plans as needed for each district quadrant.
- Provide support for student performances such as access to facilities for showcases, exhibitions, and transportation.
- Ensure instructional minutes ensuring arts enrichment year round for grades TK-12:
 - TK-K: 25 minutes per week
 - 1st-3rd: 30 minutes per week
 - 4th-5th: 40 minutes per week

Establish a Visual Arts and Performing Arts (VAPA) TOSA Position utilizing AMS funding to:

- Coordinate and provide TK-12 curriculum alignment
- Lead and support arts teachers for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and Professional Development (PD)
- Serve as liaison between educators, administration, and community arts partners regarding AMS procedures, budgeting, and allocation.