

# Siskiyou County

Thank you to the many individuals and community projects that contribute to bringing the arts to the youth of Siskiyou County. The opportunities these efforts create for our students are positive and impactful on their learning. The Siskiyou County Office of Education team looks forward to the positive impact of Proposition 28 funding on arts education and the new initiatives we are supporting to expand and improve education in the artistic disciplines.

– **Allan S. Carver, Siskiyou County Superintendent of Schools**



## Siskiyou County Office of Education

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The Siskiyou County Office of Education (SCOE) is proud to highlight our commitment to arts education, mirroring the success of our Extreme Science Program. In the 2023-2024 school year the Educational Services Department in Siskiyou County introduced a new role, the Arts Education Specialist, which is accessible to all 24 districts and the two K-12 charters in the county. The Arts Education Specialist not only teaches art classes but also actively promotes various forms of artistic expression in the curriculum. With this specialist in place, we aim to cater to the artistic needs of our local school districts, particularly the smaller ones that may lack the resources to hire dedicated arts experts.

The Arts Education Specialist arrives at schools fully equipped with all the necessary materials in order to seamlessly integrate standards-aligned artistic disciplines, including dance, music, drama, media arts, and visual arts with literature, storytelling, or other disciplines. By extending this program to our school districts,

we seek to nurture the next generation of artists, musicians, dancers, and creators, ensuring that the arts continue to thrive in our community.

In recent years, Siskiyou County Office of Education (SCOE) has been actively disseminating professional learning opportunities that support the implementation of the 2020 California Arts Education Framework. These opportunities have included a range of professional development workshops, and student events designed to support K-12 teachers and administrators. The delivery options have been flexible, with both video and in-person access to statewide resources available.

In addition to this initiative, schools have developed a variety of collaborations with various state and regional partners, including the California Arts Project (TCAP), the Region 2 Arts Lead, Create CA, the California Superintendents Arts Initiative, as well as local organizations like

the Siskiyou County Arts Council and local community-based arts education partnerships. These collaborations have played a significant role in extending the reach of arts education opportunities to educators and PK-12 students in the county.

In the fall and winter of 2021-2022 SCOE partnered with Liberty Arts Gallery, in Yreka, CA, to promote their *Explorations* program to a wider range of K-12 teachers, especially if they were providing online art lessons, through a live video workshop that was shared online and recorded. Through the *Explorations* program, gallery



volunteers and staff develop one lesson based upon a featured artist on exhibit. This lesson is pre-assembled in a binder with materials and classroom instructions to be provided by teachers, or as part of a field trip to the gallery. Aligned with the 2020 CA Arts Education Framework and underwritten by grants, this opportunity provided both art and community connections.

In spring 2022, thanks to funds distributed by the CA Superintendents Region 2 Arts Education Lead at Butte County Office of Education, K-12 teachers in Siskiyou County were invited to submit a program-driven wish list of arts supplies that were delivered to them personally. Many of those supplies, like sketch-boards, are still in classrooms today. While this was a one-time example, it is the intent of SCOE that the wish lists of teachers are further supported by the alignment of arts education funding plans developed in each district or charter across the county.

In spring 2023, the long-loved tradition of 8th Grade Inspiration Day returned for its 28th year as an in-person event at the College of the Siskiyous campus in Weed, CA. As part of this event all interested 8th graders are invited to submit original pieces of two-dimensional visual art that is judged by college arts faculty for first through third place and Best in Show, then displayed for their peers to see during this full-day career and college exploration event. Partners in this event include College and Career Options, College of the Siskiyous, SiskiyouWorks, and other members on the Career Exploration Committee. Teachers receive a packet outlining the



entry guidelines which are aligned with the current California state standards for arts education, encouraging them to infuse the annual theme of “My Dream Career” into classroom art lessons.

While on campus students also get to visit all college departments and hear from local faculty about setting their sites on higher education. This includes the choral, band, ceramics, and digital media classrooms; it is a special thrill seeing the “scene shop” backstage in the theatre department.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the SCOE’s Educational Services Department created a workshop series of three sessions for school administrators and arts champions to learn more about Prop 28 funding; to develop arts education plans; and collaborate with other leaders and arts

educators in Siskiyou County. The workshops generated questions and ideas for collaborative ways to use funding to enhance arts education in schools.

There is never enough space to express the appreciation educators and families across our county have for the many public and private champions of the arts who share their talents and resources with our teachers and children. From donations made by local artists for school fundraising auctions, to Poetry Out Loud (thanks to the Siskiyou County Arts Council), College of the Siskiyous theatre performances, the Red Scarf Society and Music On the Mountain performances, gallery-hosted student art shows, expanded learning art displays at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, mural and drama programs, Bella Art Works art-kits, and especially to the irreplaceable classroom volunteers.

