

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

Senate Bill 896 (Senator Ferguson)
 Budget and Taxation

Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance Grant

This bill requires the Governor to include at least \$600,000 in the annual State budget for a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) Alliance for the development, implementation, and maintenance of the Artlook Map Maryland (Artlook Maryland) Project. The grant must be in addition to and not supplant funds otherwise granted to the AEMS Alliance. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$600,000 annually beginning as early as FY 2020 at the Governor’s discretion. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2021.**

(in dollars)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Net Effect	(\$600,000)	(\$600,000)	(\$600,000)	(\$600,000)	(\$600,000)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Minimal. Local school system arts programs will benefit from the project. However, local school system revenues are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: There is no required annual State grant to the AEMS Alliance. However, the AEMS Alliance has received a total of \$238,500 in Fine Arts Initiative grant funding from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for

fiscal 2018 and 2019. Also, the State provides approximately \$732,000 annually since fiscal 2011 for fine arts grants to local school systems to help teachers and administrators integrate arts education throughout the curriculum.

The Maryland State Arts Council, in partnership with MSDE, formed the AEMS Alliance in 1992, which was incorporated as a Maryland nonprofit organization in 1997. The mission of the AEMS Alliance is to increase student access to courses in all art forms through purposeful actions.

According to the AEMS Alliance, Artlook Maryland is in direct response to a recommendation in *The Governor's P-20 Leadership Council Task Force on Arts Education in Maryland Schools* report published in 2014. Recommendation B from [the report](#) is to establish a comprehensive, statewide data system that collects elementary, middle, and high school data on fine arts instruction. The AEMS Alliance advises that its goal through the implementation of the project is to increase access, equity, and quality of arts education in Maryland public schools.

The AEMS Alliance indicates that the Artlook Maryland platform will allow for (1) comprehensive arts education mapping; (2) tracking and elimination of program and funding gaps; (3) connecting cultural services to schools more frequently and effectively; (4) informing policies and efforts of Maryland stakeholders driving large scale change in access to arts education; (5) tracking the impact of Maryland's investments in cities and counties over time; and (6) measuring how districts compare to each other and to national averages. MSDE advises that the platform will allow users to access and search arts education data in any city or region in Maryland and will illustrate the location and concentration of arts programs, including in-school and out-of-school time activity. Artlook Maryland will include Maryland School Report Card and Fine Arts Longitudinal data from MSDE, data sets from local school systems, and school-level data as well as information gathered from community arts organizations and institutions.

With funding from private donors, the pilot of Artlook Maryland platform is being launched in 2019 in Montgomery and Anne Arundel counties and Baltimore City. With funding under the bill, the AEMS Alliance will expand the platform to 3 more districts per year, beginning in 2021, until all 24 local districts are represented on the platform. Upon full implementation by 2028, funding under the bill will allow the AEMS Alliance to expand resources and support to all Maryland schools and arts partners to improve educational outcomes for students through the Artlook Maryland platform.

State Expenditures: Mandated general fund expenditures increase by \$600,000 annually, beginning in fiscal 2021. At the Governor's discretion, funding may be added to the fiscal 2020 budget.

The AEMS Alliance advises that, of the initial \$600,000 in funding under the bill, \$280,000 will cover AEMS staffing costs, including a new director of partnerships and professional learning and a technical support staff person; \$108,000 will cover an outside contractor's costs for research development and quality assessment tool production, as well as travel; and \$80,000 will be devoted to providing resources to schools to support improved ratings on the MSDE School Arts Portfolio. The remaining \$132,000 would cover the annual subscription for the platform, community engagement and training costs, and equipment costs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 657 (Delegates McIntosh and Rosenberg) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) Alliance; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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