

Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant Summary

AB185 outlines the new Block Grant. Funds are to be used by 2026 and will begin to be dispersed in December 2022.

- Amount to be received by TRCS: \$53,526
- Spread over the 4 years: \$13,407 per year

For the 2022–23 fiscal year, the sum of three billion five hundred sixty million eight hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$3,560,885,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the State Department of Education to establish the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant, for allocation to county offices of education, school districts, charter schools, and the state special schools to:

(1) Obtain standards-aligned professional development and instructional materials, in the following subject areas: Visual and performing arts, World languages, Mathematics, Science, including environmental literacy, English language arts, including early literacy, Ethnic studies, Financial literacy, including the content specified in Section 51284.5 of the Education Code, Media literacy, Computer science, History-social science.

Three Rivers will use funds for purchasing instructional materials in these subject areas. Most materials have already been purchased this year so the amount dedicated to this area increases for 2023-24 forward. Funds will also be used to materials for a mural project with students on our storage container.

(2) Obtain instructional materials and professional development aligned to best practices for improving school climate, including training on deescalation and restorative justice strategies, asset-based pedagogies, antibias, transformative social-emotional learning, media literacy, digital literacy, physical education, and learning through play.

Beginning next year, Three Rivers will use these funds to purchase Social Emotional Learning Curriculum that we tried this year.

(3) Develop diverse book collections and obtain culturally relevant texts, including leveled texts, in both English and pupils' home languages, to support pupils' independent reading. It is the intent of the Legislature that these book collections and culturally relevant texts be used to provide support for pupils through the establishment of site-based school and classroom libraries that are culturally relevant to pupils' home and community experiences and be available in English, pupils' home language, or a combination of more than one language.

Funds will be used in the 23-24 school year to diversify classroom library collections.

(4) Operational costs, including but not limited, to retirement and health care cost increases.

No funds are planned to be allocated to this area.

(5) As related to the COVID-19 pandemic, acquire personal protective equipment, masks, cleaning supplies, COVID-19 tests, ventilation upgrades, and other similar expenditures, if they are necessary to keep pupils and staff safe from COVID-19 and schools open for in-person instruction.

The current funds we are using to maintain the air filtration units in all the rooms will expire at the end of 2024. Funds from this block grant will be used to upkeep the air filtration units for the remaining two years of this grant.

Remaining funds, Per section C of AB185 will be used “to support arts and music education programs” by contributing to our Music Instructor’s wages.