

The Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program (BTS Arts)

BTS Arts provides Utah elementary school students high-quality learning and arts-integrated experiences. Arts-integrated education is shown to improve language development, motor skills, deeper learning, and student engagement. BTS Arts is funded by the state legislature and Art Works for Kids (AWFK) – one of the most successful public/private partnerships in Utah. Seven endowed institutions of higher education provide professional development for BTS Arts educators. USBE implements the program in close collaboration with the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) around the state.



BTS Arts Impacts Kids, Schools & Families

- For every year of participation in BTS Arts, a school’s average score on math, reading, and science assessments rises.¹
- Arts integration increases student engagement and improves retention of core subjects, such as math and reading.
- Arts-integrated education also strengthens language

development, motor skills, and student health and wellness.

- BTS Arts events build community and expand opportunities for parental participation and engagement.

Principals Believe BTS Arts Makes a Difference

91%

of principals somewhat or strongly agree:

- collaboration between BTS Arts educators and classroom teachers improves student learning.
- BTS Arts has a positive impact on the school’s culture.

In 2025-26, BTS Arts needs your support

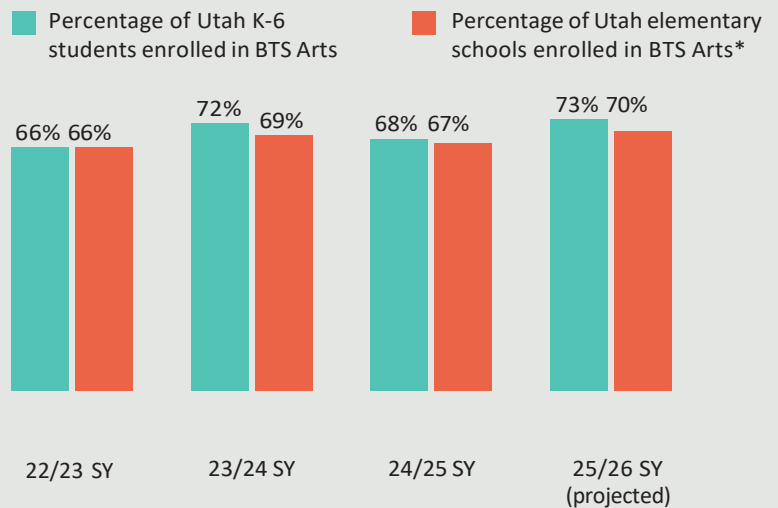
Due to limited funding, 23 Utah schools were unable to participate in the BTS Arts Program during the 2024–25 school year. In addition, seven existing schools requested increased instructional time to address enrollment growth, but these requests could not be accommodated within current resources.

The BTS Arts Program provides proven, arts-integrated learning experiences that enhance academic achievement and student engagement in Utah’s elementary schools. To extend program access to the 23 schools on the waiting list and support existing schools, we respectfully request

an appropriation of **\$1.7 million**. This investment will ensure that thousands of additional Utah students benefit

from high-quality arts education.

Growth of BTS Arts



*Includes public charter schools

USBE funds licensed & endorsed arts educators who are experts in one of four disciplines:



visual art



dance



music



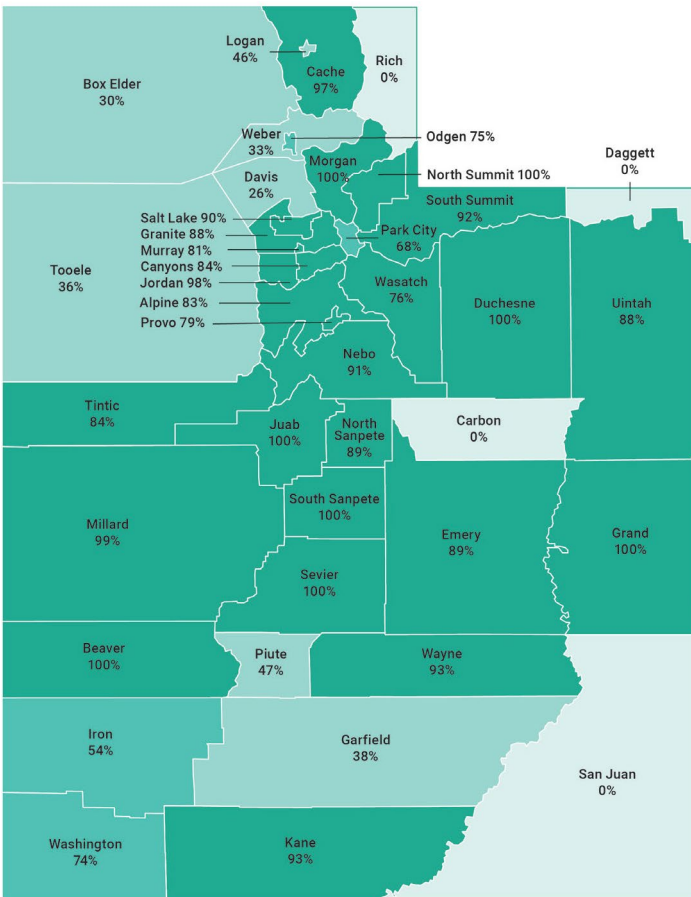
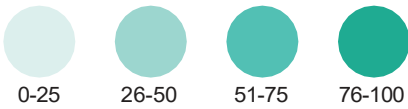
drama

BTS Arts educators work alongside elementary classroom teachers using evidence-based methods to develop arts-integrated lesson plans.

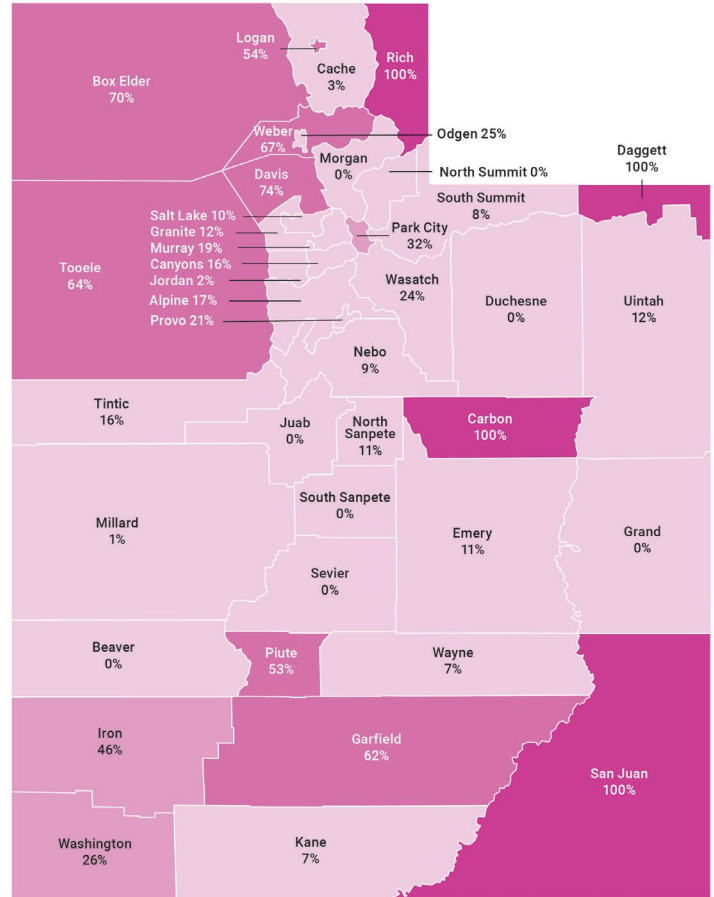
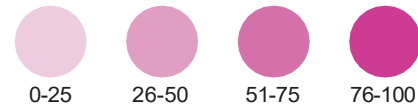
"I think [BTS Arts is] hugely important in the public school system because you have a wide variety of kids. You have a wide variety of family backgrounds, where they come from, how they learn individually, how their families teach them at home, what additional resources they have. And so the more the public education system can do to give kids varied ways to learn and retain information, the better off we're going to be as a society."

-Brandy Connolly
Parent, Parley's Park

Percentage of Utah Elementary Students Attending Schools Enrolled in BTS Arts



Percentage of Utah Elementary Students Attending Schools Not Enrolled in BTS Arts



BTS Arts is implemented and monitored by the USBE in close collaboration with the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) around the state. Seven endowed institutions of



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ARTS LEARNING
PROGRAM

