

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
 Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 896

(Senator Ferguson)

Budget and Taxation

Appropriations

Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance Grant

This bill requires the Governor to include at least \$100,000 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, and terminates June 30, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$100,000 annually through FY 2023, beginning as early as FY 2020 at the Governor’s discretion. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2021 through 2023.**

(in dollars)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0
Net Effect	(\$100,000)	(\$100,000)	(\$100,000)	(\$100,000)	\$0

*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. Funding under the bill will assist AEMS Alliance to expand the platform to additional districts and to expand resources and support to additional Maryland schools and arts partners to improve educational outcomes for students through the Artlook Maryland platform.

**State Expenditures:** Mandated general fund expenditures increase by \$100,000 annually in fiscal 2021 through 2023. At the Governor's discretion, funding may be added to the fiscal 2020 budget. The AEMS Alliance advises that the funding will be used to cover the annual subscription for the platform and cover much of the related annual technical support 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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 2019  
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