



Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find more information about the BTSALP?

The BTSALP Implementation Guidelines and Roles and Responsibilities can be found on the USBE BTSALP website. The websites for AWFK and Friends of Arts Works for Kids also provide advocacy information, lesson plans and other materials helpful for teachers. The website has information about applying for the program and program guidelines. Each partnering university has information for participants in their assigned region.

What is Art Works for Kids (AWFK)

This organization hosts a website with lesson plans and a digital newsletter to promote arts events and arts education. They also provide grants for the arts with funding from the Beverley Sorenson Foundation for the Arts. Lisa Cluff is the director of AWFK. Grant applications are available on their website.

What is Friends of Art Works for Kids?

This is the promotional organization to secure the funding for BTSALP from the legislature. Lisa Cluff is the Director. Schools participating in BTSALP are encouraged to have patrons sign---up with their email addresses for Friends of Art Works for Kids email lists. AWFK will provide blank sheets for signups and completed sheets should be sent to the AWFK office. They also provide signage and posters for BTSALP. People on the email list receive advocacy updates during legislative sessions.

What types of BTSALP promotion is the participating school responsible for? Since the BTSALP program is funded by the legislature, public visibility and support are critical to the reallocation of funding each year. Legislators and decision makers should be invited to school arts events as appropriate. Contact Lisa Cluff from AWFK and she will coordinate invitations to legislators with you. She also will request stories from you for inclusion in publications and collect art works from you to display in selected public places. (See the Implementation Guidelines for a complete list of arts advocacy ideas.)

What is a Parent Arts Night?

This is one type of promotional/advocacy event. Most Arts Nights often highlight the art form of BTSALP but also include other art forms. It is suggested that each school conduct an Arts Night each year and in the case of schools who share a specialist every other year. Please invite representatives from AWFK, USBE, your district and your partner university as appropriate.

Who do I report to? What is the line of Authority?

BTSALP specialists are directly responsible to their individual school administrator. Hiring, staff support and remediation of specialists is the principal's responsibility. As with all faculty, principals are responsible for the personal growth plan of each specialist as outlined by the Utah Board of Education.

Who are the other leaders in the program and what do they do?

- Utah State Board of Education Staff will generate, award and fund the grants and is responsible for the implementation of the program and for the orientation of administrators and specialists to the program guidelines. Cathy Jensen Utah State Board of Education Fine Arts Specialist, is the contact person.
- Arts Integration Coaches or the district arts coordinators are the liaison between the Utah State Board of Education Staff, the district and the schools for grant writing, program implementation including arranging appropriate schedules, spaces and other working conditions. Coaches provide individual mentoring and also oversee the school professional development plan in the arts. Coaches also coordinate with university partners for school wide and district professional development workshops according to their district arts plan.
- Partner universities provide professional development for specialists and other school employees in the arts and in arts integration. There are specified workshops, videos, webinars and coursework that are required for BTSALP arts specialists.

What are the qualifications to be a BTSALP specialist

Licensure and endorsement questions should be directed to Cathy Jensen, Utah State Board of Education Staff Member for Fine Arts. First consult the USBE website for information. The BTSALP Implementation Guidelines includes a list of accepted qualifications.

How do we recruit quality candidates?

Traditional district recruiting tools can include contacting the assigned university PD partners to help advertise positions to recent graduates. BTSALP has generated a list of potential questions to aid in interviewing specialists.

How much time does an arts specialist need to spend teaching the art form and/or integrating other content areas?

Arts teachers are expected to teach the core standards in their art form. They are also expected to collaborate with classroom teachers to identify and implement experiences where the arts can enhance core subjects in an authentic and meaningful way. Collaboration is a fundamental principal in this program.

Why does BTSALP require collaborative teaching and planning?

Collaborative planning and arts integrated teaching benefit teachers, students, and all other stakeholders within school community. Arts integrated curriculum increases student engagement and improves student learning while cultivating an arts--enriched and collaborative school environment. As grade level teachers recognize the benefit of the arts in their core subjects, they learn to integrate the arts into their daily instruction. The entire school community benefits as the learning engagement of both students and teachers improves.

How much collaborative teaching and planning are required in the grant? Each school has the flexibility to develop this component to meet the above goal according to the authentic needs of their students and faculty as well as to meet established school priorities. Increased collaboration and planning between teachers and specialists is evident in successful BTSALP schools.

What is the benefit of having a School Arts Team?

A school arts team builds commitment to the arts by inviting stakeholders (including administration, teachers, parents, and community partners) to participate in, support, and promote arts opportunities. This engagement provide help for the art specialist and fosters an entire school community united in the arts. School Arts Teams should be created and maintained by the school administrator. (See the Implementation Guidelines for more information).

Where do we get supply money?

Schools/districts are responsible for providing space, computer and other materials that are provided for every teacher. Arts specific materials can be provided b community donations, PTA fund raisers, and school or district allocations. USBE occasionally has supply money available to schools through a grant. Districts will be notified to apply for a grant when funding is available.

Can I extend the contract for my specialist for hours beyond the grant allocation? Can I have two specialists?

If a school chooses to hire a specialist beyond the .5 or .75 awarded to the school b the grant, any additional salary must be covered by the school/district. An additional specialists are paid by the school/district.