



**BEVERLEY  
TAYLOR  
SORENSEN**  
ARTS LEARNING  
PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2020-2021

### **Where can I find more information about BTSArts?**

The BTSArts *Implementation Guidelines* and *Roles and Responsibilities* can be found on the Utah State Board of Education website (<https://schools.utah.gov/curr/finearts?mid=4609&tid=6>) The website for [Art Works for Kids](#) also provides advocacy information, lesson plans and other materials helpful for teachers and administrators. Each partnering university also has information for participants in their assigned region.

### **What is Art Works for Kids (AWFK)?**

Art Works for Kids was established by Beverley Taylor Sorenson alongside her integrated arts teaching program, BTSArts, that emphasizes collaborative teaching and planning between classroom teachers and arts educators. The organization hosts a website ([artworksforkids.org](http://artworksforkids.org)) with resources to support innovative ways of teaching the arts. The foundation has given millions of dollars to schools, districts, arts organizations, and universities to provide and support professional development opportunities for educators. Thousands of classroom teachers, arts teachers and administrators have received professional development in arts integration through the workshops sponsored by Art Works for Kids.

### **What is Friends of BTSArts (FoBTSArts)?**

Friends of BTSArts is an advocacy organization created to promote the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program and to ensure that Utah's school children receive the benefits of high-quality integrated arts instruction. The goal of Friends of BTSArts is to bring this innovative program to all elementary students across the state. Schools participating in BTSArts are encouraged to have parents, volunteers, faculty, family and community members sign up with their email addresses to receive advocacy updates during legislative sessions.

### **For what types of promotion/advocacy are the participating BTSArts schools responsible?**

Since BTSArts is funded by the legislature, public visibility and support are critical to the allocation of funding each year. Legislators and decision makers should be invited to school arts events as appropriate, and in cooperation with Art Works for Kids. Schools may be asked to provide stories and/or artwork to include in publications and/or to display in selected public places.

### **What is a Parent Arts Night?**

Parent arts nights are one type of promotional/advocacy event. Most art nights highlight the art of BTSArts 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 BTSArts educator, every other year. Schools should invite representatives from AWFK, USBE, district, and partnering university as appropriate.

### **To whom do BTSArts arts educators report? What is the line of authority?**

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

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

- Utah State Board of Education (USBE) staff will generate, award and fund the grants and is responsible for the implementation of BTSArts, and the orientation of arts educators and administrators to the program guidelines.
- Arts integration coaches or LEA arts coordinators are the liaison between USBE staff, the local education agency, or LEA, (district or charter) for grant writing and program implementation. Implementation includes arranging appropriate schedules, teaching spaces and other working conditions. Coaches provide individual mentoring and oversee the school professional development plan in the arts. Coaches also coordinate with university partners for school and district professional development opportunities according to their district arts plan.
- Partner universities provide professional development for arts educators and other school employees in the arts and arts integration. There are specified workshops, videos, webinars and coarse work that are required for BTSArts educators.

### **What are the qualifications to be a BTSArts educator?**

The ideal arts educator has a Professional educator license as described in Utah Administrative Code Rule R277-301, with either a K-12 art-form specific endorsement or an elementary art-form specific endorsement. If the most qualified candidate does not hold a Professional license, the hiring LEA may use their own discretion to hire someone with an Associate or LEA-specific license and/or endorsement, and then should support that employee's continuing effort to obtain a Professional license and/or endorsement.

### **How does an LEA recruit quality candidates?**

Traditional district/charter recruiting tools can include contacting the partner university professional development providers to help advertise positions to recent graduates. A list of suggested interview questions to aid in interviewing candidates can be found the USBE website.

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

BTSArts educators 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 principle in this program.

### **Why does BTSArts require collaborative teaching and planning?**

Collaborative planning and arts-integrated teaching benefit teachers, students, and all other stakeholders within the 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 according to the needs of their students and faculty. The structure for collaborative planning must be in place to ensure each school develops instructional models according to those needs and other school priorities. Increased collaboration and planning time between classroom teachers and arts educators is evident in successful BTSArts 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 other community members to participate in, support, and promote arts opportunities. This engagement provides help for the arts educator and fosters an entire school community united in the arts. School arts teams should be created and maintained by the school administrator.

### **Where do we get supply money?**

Schools/districts are responsible for providing space, a computer and other materials that are provided for every teacher. Arts-specific materials can be provided by community donations, PTA fundraisers, 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 BTSArts educator for hours beyond the grant allocation? Can a school have two BTSArts educators?**

If a school chooses to hire a BTSArts educator beyond the .5 or .75 FTE awarded to the school by the grant, any additional salary must be covered by the school/district. Any additional arts educators are funded by the school/district.