

Fresno Unified gets \$1.3 million arts grant

By Hannah
Furfaro

McLane High juniors Jerome Jackson, left, and Lucky Sysongkham, work on projects in Marc Patterson's AP Studio class last year. Fresno Unified School District's plan to expand arts education got a boost this week when it received a \$1.3 million grant to train teachers at 11 elementary schools to integrate more art concepts into English language arts classes in grades three through six.

JOHN WALKER — Fresno Bee File Photo [Buy Photo](#)

Eleven Fresno Unified schools will soon get more opportunities to teach art through a \$1.3 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education this week.

The money will be used to train teachers to integrate more art concepts into English language arts classes in grades three through six.

During the first few years, principals at the 11 schools will create a model that could then be used elsewhere in the district. The elementary schools that will benefit are Aynesworth, Balderas, Columbia, Fremont, Greenberg, Jackson, Malloch, Olmos, Storey, Turner and Vinland.

The money comes after the district was picked as one of 10 nationwide to partner with the Washington, D.C.-based Kennedy Center's Any Given Child program to develop a longterm arts education plan.

Since the passage of Proposition 30, the district has chipped in \$1 million to buy new musical instruments, visual arts supplies and fund new art teacher positions. Additional money through the district's middle school redesign will add more arts opportunities for middle schoolers.



[Copyright](#)

© 2014 www.fresnobee.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.fresnobee.com>