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Brought to you by Nebraska Arts Council in partnership with  
Nebraskans for the Arts



**-NebraskARTS Awards: Nominate a School-**

*Time to Nominate for*  
**2025-2026**  
**NebraskARTS Awards**

**New Application is Now Available!**  
Nominate a school or district that goes above and beyond for arts education.



Deadline: October 17, 2025  
Winners Announced: December 2025

Scan QR code or click link to access the application form.

[t.ly/mHOGn](https://t.ly/mHOGn)



We work at both the state and federal levels to secure support and funding that ensure all students have access to high-quality arts learning.

As part of this mission, we share powerful stories that illustrate the positive impact of the arts on students' lives. One way we celebrate excellence in arts education is through the NebraskARTS Award, which honors a school or school district that exemplifies a strong commitment to the arts.

Nominations are open now, with a deadline of October 17, 2025.

To nominate a school, click the button below.

[Click here to learn more](#)

## - National Arts Education Week -



National Arts in Education Week (**September 14-20, 2025**) is a nationwide celebration of the transformative power of the arts in education.

Passed by Congress in 2010, this week is designated to highlight the benefits of and need for the arts in education so that elected officials and educational decision-makers nationwide can find ways to support equitable arts access for students of all backgrounds.

During this week, Nebraskans for the Arts and Americans for the Arts will amplify the value of the arts in education through a series of activities.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Register Now for Poetry Out Loud



## Sign up now for Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation competition now celebrating its 20th anniversary. The program helps high school students Master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. Poetry Out Loud is an exciting way to bring poetry alive for both students and teachers. Also, POL is completely free of charge!

- In addition to high schools, libraries and non-profits may participate
- Stipends will be available to help you carry out your program
- In-person visits by veteran poets and performers who are familiar with POL
- State finals will be held in March in Fremont

[Click here to learn more](#)

## - Upcoming Arts Education Conferences -

Professional development conferences help to make arts education flourish in Nebraska. They provide teachers with invaluable opportunities to expand

school administrators to support teachers who wish to attend:

- NSCTA (Nebraska Speech, Communications, and Theatre Association) Fall Convention - Sept. 18-20 (Kearney): <https://nscta.info/>
- NATA (Nebraska Art Teacher Association)- Oct. 17-18, 2026 (Omaha): <https://www.nebraskaarteducators.org>
- NMEA (Nebraska Music Educators Association- Nov. 20-22, 2025 (Lincoln): <https://www.nmeanebraska.org/>
- Nebraska Thespian Festival - Jan. 8-10, 2026 (Omaha) <https://sites.google.com/view/nebraskathespians/home>

## - Search and Discovery Stories -



[Nebraska's Arts Education Data Project \(AEDP\)](#) was launched last year as a partnership initiative between the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Department of Education. AEDP is an interactive data visualization tool that allows users to explore enrollment, access, and participation in arts courses throughout Nebraska's public school system.

Earlier this summer, focus groups convened to identify how different individuals use the AEDP dashboard. Some of the participants have written stories about their experiences. We hope their 'Search and Discovery' stories will inspire many more Nebraska educators and community members to set out on their own exploration of the AEDP dashboard.

Click on the button below to read stories by Nebraska educators about their experiences using Nebraska's AEDP dashboard.

[Click here to learn more](#)

## - Sacred Music in Schools -



### **Does music with a sacred text have a place in the public schools?**

It is the position of the National Association for Music Education that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music education.

The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience.

[Click here to learn more](#)