



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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**To:** Religious and Independent School Administrators

**From:** Althea Johnson, Director, Office of Religious & Independent School Support

**Date:** June 25, 2025

**Office of Religious and Independent School Support (ORISS)**  
**Art & Music Teacher Salary (AMTS) Reimbursement Grant**

**Purpose:** The Art & Music Teacher Salary (AMTS) Reimbursement Grant provides Religious & Independent schools with \$5 million in State funding for the reimbursement of art & music teachers' salaries. Each school which seeks reimbursement shall submit to NYSED an application, together with such additional documents as the Commissioner of Education may reasonably require.

**Governance:** The AMTS grant is awarded funds via Executive discretionary funding. The New York State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 appropriation is governed by the laws of New York and is administered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

**Eligibility:** Institutional Eligibility

1. Religious and independent schools (non-profit or not-for-profit schools only)
2. Currently open/operational (at the time of application)
3. 853 and 4201 schools are not eligible
4. Possession of (or will obtain) a valid Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) Vendor ID
5. New York State Education Department (NYSED) issued Basic Education Data System (BEDS) code
6. BEDS enrollment data for 2024-2025 school year for grades K-12

Teacher Eligibility

1. An eligible teacher is categorized as one of the following:
  - a. Certified to teach in New York State pursuant to Section 3004 of Education Law;  
or
  - b. Holds a master's degree or Ph.D. in one or more of the following subject areas:
    - i. Dance
    - ii. Theater
    - iii. Visual or Media Arts
    - iv. Fine Arts
    - v. Music

- vi. Education; or
  - c. Holds a bachelor's degree in Dance, Theater, Visual or Media Arts, Fine Arts, Music or education and is currently enrolled in a master's or Ph.D. program in Dance, Theater, Visual or Media Arts, Fine Arts, Music, or education within five (5) years from the date of April 10, 2020, or the employment start date with the religious or independent school.
2. Teaches art or music in any grade from kindergarten (k) through twelve (12) using curricula that support the New York State learning standards.
  3. Does not provide non-secular (religious) instruction in any capacity.
  4. Is employed by a religious or independent school during the 2024-25 school year.

**Application:** Guidance, application and other related information are available at:

[AMTS Webpage](#)

Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to complete their AMTS Y2 submission through the [NYSED Business Portal](#). This web-based system improves submission quality, reduces the need for follow-up, and increases the efficiency of claim processing and reimbursement. To access the [NYSED Business Portal](#), schools must have a **User ID, Password, and access permissions**.

- To reset your password, click the **key icon** at the top right of the Business Portal Dashboard.
- If you've forgotten your User ID, please contact the [SEDDAS Help Desk](#) via email.

**Deadline:** The submission deadline for the Year 2 AMTS Grant is **August 1, 2025**.

**For the purpose of the AMTS grant, the following definitions will apply:**

#### **Non-Secular Instruction**

Religious instruction. Teachers providing instruction in dance, theater, visual or media arts, fine arts, and/or music and providing non-secular (religious) instruction in any capacity are not eligible.

#### **Teacher**

An employee of a religious or independent school whose responsibility is to create and instruct students using a research-based curriculum guided by the New York State learning standards in the grant specified areas.

Please note that non-primary, instructional support, and non-classroom educators are not eligible teachers for the AMTS grant and include:

- Consultant Teachers
- Teacher Aides or Teacher Assistants
- Librarians or Library media specialists
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Physical or Occupational Therapist/Therapist Aids

- Tutors
- Substitute Teachers

**Study of Arts**

The study of arts is defined as an opportunity to teach students how to become artistically literate students and citizens. An artistically literate citizen has the knowledge, tools, and understanding to actively engage in the arts throughout their lives as measured by the [NYS Learning Standards for the Arts](#) including Dance, Music, Theater, Visual and Media Arts.

**NYS Budget Appropriations-AMTS**

Grant Year	Division of Budget Appropriations	Fiscal Year (FY)	School Year (SY)	Application Year	AMTS Reimbursement Rate
1	\$5M	2023-24	2023-24	2024	TBD
2	\$5M	2024-25	2024-25	2025	TBD

**Reimbursement Methodology**

Reimbursement for eligible teachers shall be the average comparable teacher salary and personal service, per subject area, of public-school teachers in the school district in which such nonpublic schools are located, multiplied by the percentage of full time equivalent secular instructional hours completed in the school day per subject area. Reimbursements shall not be provided for eligible teachers who provide instruction in dance, theater, visual or media arts, fine arts, and/music, if such teachers also provide non-secular instruction in any capacity.

In the event that the total reimbursements requested exceed the appropriation available for this program, then each applicant shall only be reimbursed an amount equal to the percentage each such applicant represents to the total of all applications submitted.

Applicants should keep in mind; eligible teacher salaries in similar grants have historically exceeded their reimbursement rate. Employing religious and independent school must support the remaining expenses and should not plan to receive additional reimbursement.

**Dataset**

NYSED’s Information and Reporting Services (IRS) collects and reports annual data on public school districts and schools. For Y2 of the AMTS grant, the 2024-2025 School Year data will be used for the calculations.

**Resources:**

- AMTS Webpage: [AMTS Webpage Link](#)
  - (Summary table of grant with links to further information)

- Guidance & Resource Documents: [AMTS Guidance & Resource Documents Link](#)
  - (Links to all the AMTS documents, including guidance & directions)
- AMTS Documentary Evidence: [AMTS Documentary Evidence](#)
  - (Required Documents & Components for AMTS Grant Applications)
- Frequently Asked Questions: [AMTS FAQs](#)
  - (Commonly asked AMTS questions and answers)
- Attestation Form: [Grant Attestation Form](#)

**Contact:** For all questions regarding the AMTS Grant, please contact: [AMTS-ORISS@nysed.gov](mailto:AMTS-ORISS@nysed.gov)  
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