

Samples of previously funded school grants:

- Field trips to MASS MoCA, Colonial Theater, Magic Wings
- Drama— Shakespeare & Co. and Berkshire Theater Festival performances and in-school workshops
- Writing workshops
- Visiting authors, storytellers, scientists, composers, dancers, musicians, dancers, artists

School Grant Representatives Contact

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SCHOOL GRANT GUIDELINES

Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire

The Massachusetts Cultural Council seeks to ensure that all children in our state's schools have access to high-quality, creative learning experiences through the integration of arts and culture into classroom curriculum and instruction.

Overview:

MCC support helps school districts leverage additional funding for creative education programs from public and private sources. These experiences are often the first of their kind for many children.

The Northern Berkshire Cultural Council, under the umbrella of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, supports activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of our local schools. The funding can be used to support programs in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences through performances, field trips to local venues, and more.

- Arts: performances, visual, media, folk, literary, interdisciplinary
- Humanities: history, social studies, philosophy, literature
- Interpretive science: science, technology and how it connects to our lives

The funding is designed to support programs that would otherwise not be possible for a school to offer their students.



Application Process:

Each year a letter is sent to the principals of Northern Berkshire schools to notify them of the LCC school grant program and the application deadline. It is important that there is an open line of communication between principals, teachers, Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTO/PTA/PTG), and artists interested in working with schools so that **one** grant application is submitted for a school. More than one event/project can be listed on a school's application. A sample of a complete application will be sent with the LCC notification letter to assist schools in correctly filling out the application.

It is strongly recommended that applicants attend a public grant writing workshop (scheduled in September) to assist applicants in completing the applications/budget form.

Applications are available online at: www.mass-culture.org as well as at your local library and town hall.

Application deadline: Applications are due in mid October. Check the MCC website for grant application deadline.

Send 3 copies of your typed application to:
Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire
P.O. Box 227

How much can you ask for?

The funding available to schools varies each year depending on the amount allocated by the state as well as the number of schools who apply. The amount your school may be eligible for is calculated based on the number of students attending your school. You cannot be granted more than you apply for even if additional monies may be available for your school. Recent grant allocations have ranged from \$500- \$2500 at a per pupil average of \$6.00-\$7.00.

Review Process:

A committee reviews each grant using the following criteria:

- Project feasibility & merit
- Funding priority may be given to events/projects that have not received funding from the LCC for three consecutive years
- Proposals should accurately describe the event/project, the target audience, project's impact, a fully completed budget on the application, and the ability to obtain additional funding sources if necessary
- Number of students to benefit
- Funding cannot be used to purchase food
- Funds used for capital expenditures (ie. items that have a life expectancy of more than 3 years and a monetary value of more than \$500) must demonstrate a dollar match of 2:1.
- Each school should submit all proposals under ONE grant application
- Any artist wishing to work with a local school needs to apply under that school's grant application, not separately
- Separate grants should not be submitted from a school's district as well as from the individual schools within that district

Notification of accepted grant proposals are sent out in January. Rejection letters are mailed in November.

Payments of approved grants are on a reimbursement basis.