

Report to the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Legislature

Perpich Center for Arts Education
January 15, 2026

Executive Director's Annual Report
Minnesota Statute §129C.27



PERPICH
TEACHING IN AND
THROUGH THE ARTS

Perpich Center for Arts Education

Executive Director Annual Report January 15, 2026

The 1985 Legislature created a state agency – Perpich Center for Arts Education – to 1) operate a residential arts high school and 2) support arts education opportunities for K-12 students and teachers throughout the state (§129C.15 Subd. 1).

The 2017 Education Omnibus Bill created the Executive Director Annual Report:

129C.27 ANNUAL DIRECTOR REPORT.

The director must report the following to the education committees of the legislature by January 15 of each year in accordance with section 3.195:

- (1) outreach activities, including the number of districts, teachers, and administrators that have participated in outreach programs; (page 4)*
- (2) the impact of the center's outreach activities; (pages 5-7)*
- (3) enrollment trends, including the number of students from each congressional district admitted to the Perpich Arts High School and efforts to increase enrollment by 20 percent by 2019; (pages 8-9) and*
- (4) students' academic achievement, including performance on standard assessments, graduation rates, and the number of students enrolled in postsecondary education. (pages 10-11)*

The following report contains the data requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Allegra Smisek, Executive Director
Perpich Center for Arts Education

Executive Summary

The mission of Perpich Center for Arts Education is to provide all Minnesota students the opportunity to develop, enhance, and integrate their artistic and academic abilities to their highest potential. As a state agency and public education institution, Perpich Center is uniquely positioned to fuse artistic passion and academic excellence to produce creative, critical thinkers. We do this by teaching in and through the arts. The agency operates two distinct divisions, Professional Development Resource Programs (PDR) and the Arts High School. Perpich Center maintains a traditional lending library for Perpich students, public patrons, and arts educators across the state of Minnesota.

The overarching goal of Professional Development and Resource Programs (PDR) is to build teacher and administrator capacity statewide so they can provide innovative, inclusive, standards-based, measurable, and student-centered learning in and through the arts. Perpich Center has been fostering development of arts education throughout Minnesota school districts. PDR assists schools and communities by providing culturally diverse learning opportunities and resources to meet the needs of students and teachers to fulfill the arts standards and build strong arts programs.

Perpich Arts High School is a statewide, public school with a residential-option that has served 11th and 12th grade students since 1989. The purpose is to empower students who have a passion for the arts to participate creatively, critically, and confidently in the global community. This innovative, statewide school attracts students from the eight congressional districts in Minnesota, who have shown artistic promise and a strong commitment to learning in an environment that supports rigorous academic programs.

Overall, Perpich Center for Arts Education continues to strive to achieve our mission and vision by the Board of Directors. We continue to adapt to the changing environment of arts education to better serve our students, school districts, and the state of Minnesota.

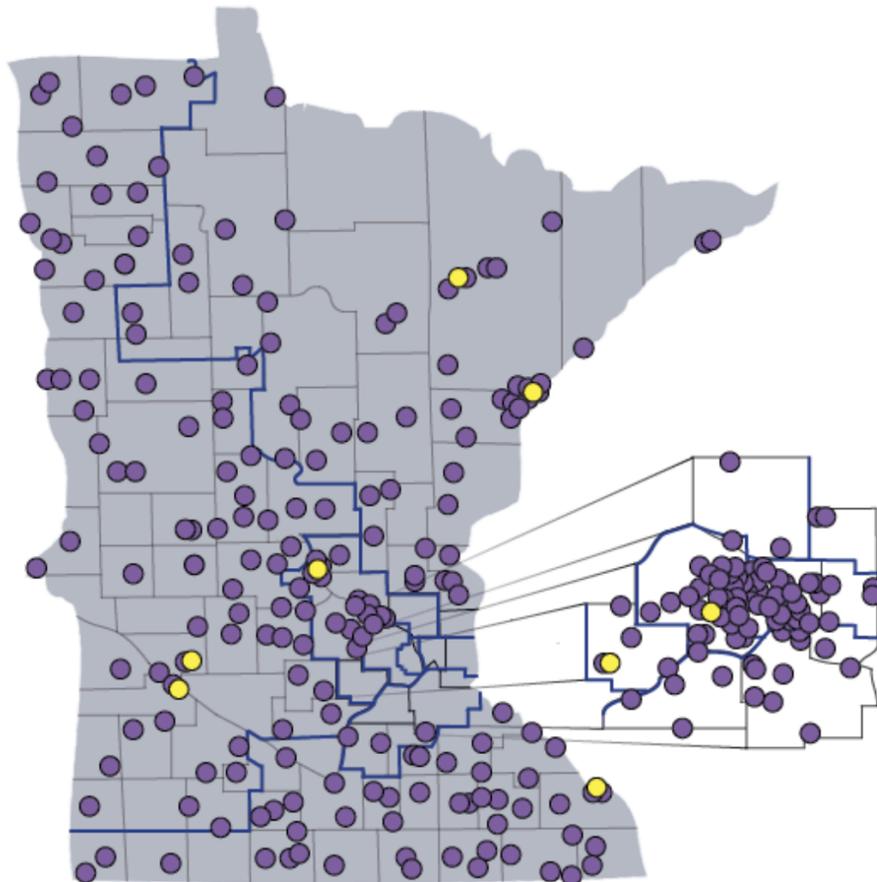
Section 1. *outreach activities, including the number of districts, teachers, and administrators that have participated in outreach programs;*

SCHOOL DISTRICTS/CHARTER SCHOOLS, EDUCATORS/ADMINISTRATORS SERVED

Fiscal year	Total Events	School Districts/Charter Schools	Total Points of Contact	Distinct Points of Contact		
				Arts Educators	Non-Arts Educators	Administrators
FY25	313	275	2,755	1,467	400	107
FY24	373	256	2,498	1,105	329	137
FY23	352	211	1,578	739	140	83



Perpich Center for Arts Education
Professional Development and Resource Programs
FY25



- CAPP (Comprehensive Arts Planning Program)
- Arts Education Specialists

In FY25, the Professional Development and Resource Programs group worked with educators/administrators in 275 district/charter schools.

Section 2. *the impact of the center's outreach activities;*

To learn more about Perpich’s impact on your specific Senate District, [please click here](#).

Example: Senate District 65

Support in FY24 and FY25 for Educators/Administrators from Perpich Center’s Professional Development and Resource Programs (PDR) – at no cost

	Statewide Total Points of Contact	Statewide Unique Points of Contact	Senate District 65 Total Points of Contact	Senate District 65 Unique Points of Contact
2023-2024	2,498	1,571	150	100
2024-2025	2,755	1,974	103	52

Customized, district-specific professional development and/or consultation, by request

- Professional development for Theater educators (Mar 2025)
- Consultation with Dance educators (May 2025)

Educators/administrators participating in workshops open to MN statewide, by individual registration

- Native Authors & Artists Series (Jul 2024, Oct 2024, Nov 2024, Feb 2025, Mar 2025, Apr 2025)
- Rootedness & Futurity: Integrating Arts and Philosophies of Minnesota Native Americans in Curriculum Development (Aug 2024)
- Learning from MN Native Authors (Feb 2025)
- Relicensure Series: Accommodation/Modification in Arts Classes (Feb 2025)
- Relicensure Series: PBIS/Student Engagement in Arts Classes (Mar 2025)
- Elementary/Middle School Theater Educator and Director Roundtable (Jun 2024, Jun 2025)
- Theater: Classroom Visit (Nov 2024)
- Minnesota Dance Summit (Feb 2025)
- Dance: Viewpoints Training (Apr 2025)
- Data Driven Decision Making in the Arts (Aug 2024)
- Teaching Guitar (Aug 2024)
- All-Inclusive Drumming (Aug 2024)
- Grant Writing for Arts Educators (Oct 2024)

Teachers participating in multi-session cohorts, by application

- Elementary Art Cohort (2024-2025)
- Regional Arts Teacher-Leader Network (2023-2024, 2024-2025)
- Theater Mentoring Program (2024-2025)

Ideas or “ah-has” participants have taken away from Perpich Center professional development

- “I’m taking away ideas for previewing the work at a digital music station.”
- “I really liked the drumbit. My school is limited on resources and this project with the body percussion and worksheets seems very doable!”
- “Bringing joy to the class and to myself.”
- “I’m taking away a better framework on how to incorporate things within a dance classroom.”
- “Learning a safer way to lock out a [rigging] line set when it is out of balance.”
- “It’s about the process, not the product.”
- “Talk to students about their heritage.”

Total Number of Educators/Administrators served by Professional Development and Resource Programs per Legislative District FY23 – FY25

Key: The number of contacts is an increase over the previous year

Legislative District	FY25		FY24		FY23	
	Points of Contact	Unique Contacts	Points of Contact	Unique Contacts	Points of Contact	Unique Contacts
1	167	109	31	13	21	12
2	103	64	56	26	36	19
3	96	53	79	25	22	15
4	56	37	53	31	25	14
5	34	16	27	11	22	12
6	140	56	153	36	49	20
7	71	34	66	15	10	8
8	42	29	31	23	53	30
9	59	40	79	36	83	29
10	102	60	108	38	51	26
11	65	42	69	35	45	25
12	42	23	39	20	51	19
13	83	43	131	39	76	43
14	87	39	108	34	87	39
15	176	100	147	55	114	63
16	100	52	131	65	67	30
17	85	46	137	67	25	17
18	119	72	148	53	38	17
19	203	147	148	79	72	37
20	88	58	86	55	86	36
21	142	75	183	111	92	39
22	47	25	100	46	68	28
23	99	70	103	64	49	24
24	74	45	73	49	75	36
25	34	20	64	53	35	16
26	56	35	71	60	34	18
27	103	65	118	83	85	50
28	152	87	97	40	63	34
29	65	43	71	50	44	27
30	123	76	46	28	60	45
31	182	114	107	56	87	57

32	43	30	34	19	51	30
33	198	127	168	104	94	57
34	264	162	177	101	135	78
35	144	94	79	40	65	43
36	120	65	129	71	93	50
37	80	54	57	30	47	29
38	123	80	118	69	92	56
39	77	41	109	60	28	17
40	159	91	167	99	119	65
41	193	123	257	145	182	98
42	94	62	118	41	71	37
43	73	46	100	65	54	32
44	291	180	194	126	71	42
45	208	114	329	195	153	89
46	284	182	187	115	71	37
47	119	78	89	43	32	24
48	141	103	100	48	64	40
49	214	141	138	80	82	41
50	55	40	28	14	38	24
51	193	146	121	70	56	31
52	218	157	191	139	63	36
53	91	49	105	65	14	10
54	95	54	101	63	13	13
55	68	48	63	32	81	38
56	206	161	107	67	110	53
57	166	128	84	57	42	17
58	197	146	120	69	106	38
59	142	78	233	129	81	54
60	104	64	208	126	111	63
61	92	54	175	108	86	59
62	98	58	201	130	93	68
63	168	108	308	203	135	93
64	62	39	125	91	37	24
65	99	51	150	100	45	27
66	128	88	178	121	89	46
67	72	43	152	94	57	34

Section 3. *enrollment trends, including the number of students from each congressional district admitted to Perpich Arts High School and efforts to increase enrollment by 20 percent by 2019;*

Perpich Arts High School Enrollment Trends

- Enrolled students on Day 1 of the 2023-24 school year: 144
- Enrolled students on Day 1 of the 2024-25 school year: 155
- Enrolled students on Day 1 of the 2025-26 school year: 135
- Enrolled Students on Day 1, 2025 – Commuter & Residential:
 - Commuters: 41 30 % of student body
 - Dorm Residents: 94 70 % of student body
- Enrolled Students on Day 1, 2025 - Residence Location:
 - (a) 7-County Metro Area: 87 64 % of student body
 - (b) Outstate MN: 48 36 % of student body

Note: Overall MN Student

Distribution 64 % - County Metro

36 % - Outstate

- Breakdown of student enrollment by grade in 2025-26: Gr. 12 = 72 Gr. 11 = 63
- Juniors who finished the 2024-25 school year at AHS: 65
 - Number of 25-26 Seniors that were enrolled at AHS during 2024-25: 59*
 - 91% of last year's Juniors returned for their Senior year*
- Number of students new to Perpich in 2025-26 (total; Seniors/Juniors) 76
 - Total New Students (63 New Juniors; 13 New Seniors)*
 - 56% of the student body is new to the Arts High School in 2025-26*
- Congressional District Representation

CD1	10	CD5	38
CD2	7	CD6	26
CD3	20	CD7	4
CD4	13	CD8	17
- The Perpich Arts High School student body has the following representation in the Minnesota Legislature:

House Members:	71/134	53%
Senate Members:	49/67	73%

Student Recruitment Effort

Encompassing time frame July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

- Direct Recruitment Outreach/Sponsorship
 - Summer camps (June 23-27, 2025 - Beginning Guitar, Drawing Crash Course, Introduction to Screenprinting, Introduction to Relief Printmaking, Camp Literary Magazine)
 - Ongoing outreach to Charter Schools in MN to reach diverse populations and those that have exhibited an openness to a school of choice that best fits their needs.
 - Statewide Visit:
 - Visited 36 MN Counties
 - Visited 74 MN High, Middle, or Secondary Schools
 - Recruitment Events

- 8.15.24 Indian Health Board Native Youth Back to School event
 - 8.20.24 Ely Tuesday Talkers luncheon
 - 8.22.24 John Stephens and Black Gems program with Mpls Urban League
 - 8.31.24 Urban League Family Fun Day
 - 9.14.24 Golden Valley Historical Society Jubilee Celebration
 - 9.22.24 St. Cloud Pride
 - 10.15.24 Cologne Academy High School Fair
 - 10.19.24 Twin Cities Book Festival
 - 10.24.24 Aurora Charter High School Fair
 - 10.24.24 Friends School/City of Lakes Montessori High School Fair
 - 11.13.24 Harvest Best Prep High School Fair
 - 11.15.24 Radio Interview w/ Thief River Falls station, Regional Art Council
 - 11.30 -12.1.24 Hmong New Year
 - 12.18.24 Mpls Urban League Resource Fair
 - 2.8.25 Minneapolis Community Connections Conference
 - 4.3.25 MRAC Forum Presentation
 - 4.6.25 Twin Cities Youth Media Showcase
 - 4.26.25 MSHSL Art Show
 - 5.9.25 Ascension School High School Fair
 - 6.7.25 Golden Valley Pride
- o Conferences:
 - 11.17-11.18.24 Minnesota Rural Education Association
 - 2.13-2.14.25 Minnesota Music Educators Association
 - 3.19.25-3.21.25 MN Indian Education Association
- Admissions Information Sessions
 - o 6 In-Person Information Sessions
 - o 5 Virtual Information Sessions
- Marketing/Public Relations
 - o Advertisements in local playbills
 - o Updated Admissions flyer
 - o Produced video shorts to promote Perpich Arts High School programming. Videos were shared on social media and in newsletters.
 - o Continued development of website within organization brand
 - o Social media advertising and Google Ads campaigns
 - o Active social media channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Threads
 - o Media advisories/Press releases sent to local media and media across the state
 - o On-air and in print features

Section 4. *students' academic achievement, including performance on standard assessments, graduation rates, and the number of students enrolled in postsecondary education*

Student Academic Achievement

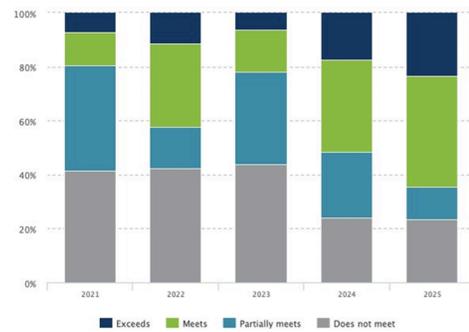
1) Academic Data

(a) Standardized Assessments

- Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments

Minnesota Report Card
Test Results and Participation
How are students performing on standards?
 Perpich Center for Arts Education Perpich Center for Arts Education
 Students Included: All tested Test: All Standards-Based (MCA/MTAS/ALTMCA) Subject: Math Year:
 Trend Grade: 11 Demographics: All Students

2021 - 2025 Student Performance



- ACT Test Results – Five Year Trend

Table 1: Five Year Trend - Composite ACT Scores

Year	# of students	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
2021	55	20.5	19.0	23.3	20.7	21.1
2022	58	22.4	20.4	25.6	21.7	22.6
2023	33	22.6	19.2	26.2	21.5	22.5
2024	34	21.8	18.8	25.7	21.1	22.0
2025	43	24.1	20.7	25.8	23.3	23.6

- Advanced Placement (AP) Results – Five Year Trend

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total AP Students	17	18	21	19	30
# of Exams	26	22	30	21	48
AP Students w/ Scores 3+	12	15	13	9	21
% of Total AP Students w/ Scores 3+	70.6	83.3	62	47.37	70

2) Graduation Rates

(a) 2025 Perpich High Arts High School Graduation Rate was 100%

3) Students Enrolled in Post-Secondary Education

(a) 2025 Perpich Art High School Graduates: 88 students

- 88 Graduates (70%) enrolled in Post-Secondary – Fall, 2025*

8 Graduates Enrolled at Minnesota Post-Secondary Institution

30

13 Graduates Enrolled at Non-Minnesota Post-Secondary Institutions

32

**Post-Secondary Enrollment Data self-reported upon Graduation*