

Big Yellow School Bus

Supporting School Visits to Arts and Cultural Activities



School field trips play an important role in arts education efforts, providing exposure to arts events otherwise inaccessible to many students. The Big Yellow School Bus program helps schools and other educational groups defray student transportation costs to professional arts and diverse cultural activities. These early arts experiences create new relationships between Ohio's youth and the state's creative sector, and support in-school arts learning activities that are critical to overall academic development.

GRANT AWARDS: Applicants may request up to \$500. No match is required. Big Yellow School Bus grantees generally receive their full request.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible organizations include—but are not limited to—public, private, charter, or parochial schools (pre-kindergarten through secondary) and associations of home-schooled students. Multiple applications from a single school or district are permissible within a single fiscal year. When funds are limited, priority will be given to new applicants. Priority status is also given to rural and urban students from underrepresented areas of Ohio. All applicants must possess nonprofit status or nonprofit intent.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: The Big Yellow School Bus program supports student transportation costs for educational field trips to art galleries, museums, festivals, and exhibitions, as well as music, dance, or theatre performances within Ohio. Applicants are responsible for making all transportation and destination arrangements.

Funds must be used for field trip-related travel expenses, including but not limited to securing buses or vans and licensed drivers, fuel and parking costs, and accessibility expenses. Funds may not be used for other related costs or activities, such as event admission fees, adjudicated student events or showcases, or students' own performances. Please refer to the [Introduction and Overview](#) for a list of activities the OAC cannot fund.

HOW TO APPLY: Big Yellow School Bus applications must be submitted via the [ARTIE](#) system. Please refer to [ARTIE: Organizational Grant Applications](#) for a description of the process. New applicants are encouraged to contact the Arts Learning coordinator to learn more about the program. Applications must include a copy of a document verifying the actual transportation cost (a purchase order, written estimate, transportation company contract, vehicle rental agreement, letter from a superintendent or other authorizing official, etc.).

REVIEW CRITERIA: OAC staff members evaluate Big Yellow School Bus grant applications. Funding recommendations are presented to the OAC executive director for final approval. Review criteria include:

- A clear description of trip's purpose with destination details is provided
- Trip provides an arts learning experience tied to educational standards
- Staff, teachers, and/or administrators are supportive of the activity

TIMELINE: The following timeline outlines the typical Big Yellow School Bus grant period:

Task/Deadline	Date
Application Deadline	At least 8 weeks prior to event
Grant Award Announcement	4-5 weeks prior to event
Grant Agreement Signed in ARTIE	At least 2 weeks prior to event
Final Report Deadline	30 days following event
Payment Issued	3-6 weeks following Final Report submission

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications accepted year-round, at least eight weeks prior to planned travel.

STAFF CONTACT

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