

Report – Permission to Submit Grants/Diana Ezell

Arts in the Classroom

Arts in the Classroom (AIC) is a program designed to primarily provide professional development for teachers and administrators of preK-12 schools in the foundations of arts integration as a teaching tool to enhance teaching skills and improve student achievement through the infusion of the arts into the basic curriculum. Secondly, pure arts experiences in visual and performing arts are brought into the school by artists and teaching artists to enrich the lives of students and teachers by increasing their skills and knowledge in all arts disciplines. AIC is a way to bring more arts into the school environment.

Whole Schools Initiative

The Whole Schools Initiative is about comprehensive school reform using the arts, and requires a strong six-year commitment from the school and district. It is expected that school districts and the communities in which they exist will continue to support their Whole Schools project site after the six years is complete. Unlike the other grant categories, Whole Schools offers, indeed requires, a training component. The Initiative is open to elementary, middle and high schools. The goal of the Initiative is to educate every child in a school *in and through* the arts. All members of the school community play an important role in this Initiative: the superintendent, the principal, arts and classroom teachers, students, parents, community organizations, local artists and businesses.

UNITED STATES DEPT. OF EDUCATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTION- ARTS MODELS

The program supports the enhancement, expansion, documentation, evaluation, and dissemination of innovative, cohesive models that demonstrate effectiveness in:

- Integrating into and strengthening arts in the core elementary and middle school curricula;
- Strengthening arts instruction in those grades; and
- Improving students' academic performance, including their skills in creating, performing, and responding to the arts.