



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

for

Building Arts-Focused School Communities: A Request for Innovative Partnerships and Programs

February 27, 2025

New York State Education Department
Office of Standards and Instruction
89 Washington Avenue, 860 EBA
Albany, NY 12234

ARTSRFI2025@nysed.gov

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) hereby issues this Request for Information (RFI) to collect information from qualified organizations, institutions, educators and experts in arts education and community engagement to support the development of comprehensive guidance for establishing and sustaining arts-focused school and district communities.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is committed to developing comprehensive guidance to support school districts and schools in building and sustaining strong arts-focused communities. This effort aligns with the Department's Strategic Plan for the Arts and seeks to integrate arts learning across curricula while emphasizing partnerships between school districts and community arts providers and stakeholders. The initiative aims to uplift sustainable, culturally responsive models for

The purpose of this RFI is to gather information and insights from organizations, schools, districts, and other stakeholders with experience in building and sustaining arts-focused school communities. The information gathered will be used to inform the development of resources that will assist school districts in creating arts-rich learning environments that integrate community arts partnerships. The responses will help identify effective strategies, models, and resources that support arts integration, cultural sustainability, and the development of a thriving arts ecosystem within school communities.

This RFI seeks information in the following areas:

- Best practices in integrating arts education within the school curriculum and broader community initiatives.
- Models of successful collaborations between schools and arts organizations, community groups, and other stakeholders.
- Professional development resources and strategies for building the capacity of educators and community partners in arts education.
- Funding sources and strategies for sustaining and expanding arts-focused programs and partnerships.
- Data or evaluation tools used to measure the impact and success of arts programs.
- Successful school and district-level programs or initiatives that can serve as models for replication.

The objectives of this Request for Information include the following:

Objective 1

To gather insights and best practices from the field on sustaining and building arts-focused districts, informing the development of comprehensive guidance and support resources for school districts across the state.

Objective 2

To gain awareness of districts with high-quality, community-based arts programs.

Objective 3

To collect data and insights on successful arts education models that can be adapted and scaled across diverse school settings in New York State.

Objective 4

To assess the current challenges and barriers schools face in establishing arts-focused communities and identify potential solutions and supports.

Objective 5

To gather information on the role of arts education in promoting student engagement, academic achievement, and social emotion development.

Interested entities are encouraged to submit a response according to the guidelines in section 4. NYSED may, at its discretion, invite respondents to visit its offices at 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York or participate in a video conference for further discussion. (a) (ea) (nt) (0 Tc) 4 6 (586 0 Td) [(,) 2: ([0 d2(es0 Tc) 4b1t) 1rua() (n) 10b(41h4.57 -1.15 Td27) 6.n6

NYSED is seeking the following information from organizations, schools, districts, and other stakeholders with experience in building and sustaining arts-focused school communities. Respondents are encouraged to respond as fully as possible to the prompts below.

4.3.2 What strategies do you employ to engage parents and community members in supporting arts education initiatives?

4.4. Professional Development

4.4.1 What professional development programs and resources does your organization offer to support arts education?

4.4.2 What capacity-building strategies does your organization utilize to support teachers and administrators in delivering high-quality arts instruction?

4.5. Funding and Sustainability

4.5.1 What funding opportunities has your organization successfully utilized to support arts programs?

4.5.2 What sustainability strategies does your organization implement, or

Responses are due by 5pm E.S.T on May 15, 2025, via email to the following address: ,vipF8 (oITÆ(5