



ARTS INITIATIVE FAQ



Why is art being prioritized?

The ARTS Initiative is an excellent opportunity for schools to strengthen and re-energize their arts programming – which has been proven to promote and improve mental health, while also increasing academic performance. The benefits are also two-fold: districts will make decisions through community engagement and make new, important connections to arts organizations and individuals that could benefit students for years to come. Schools have a responsibility to offer and invest in a well-rounded education, and this initiative will supplement those efforts.

Where is the money coming from?

Through the School Building Authority Capital Fund, The Rhode Island Department of Education is providing \$5M to improve art education and help connect students to their school facilities, pursuant to RIGL 16-105-1(a) and (b). These initial resources will be leveraged with additional private and non-profit funds.

When and how will funding be distributed?

Act I will begin in May 2022 after funding is approved by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. There will later be a kickoff ARTS gala at Lincoln High School. Every local education agency (LEA) will receive funding proportional to the number of students, with a minimum award of \$10,000 that can be used up to June 30, 2023. The School Building Authority will distribute memorandums of agreements to each LEA after the gala. Act II will follow later this summer as the pool of funding is leveraged with additional resources. Act II is incentives based and interested LEAs will receive an application form by July 1, 2022.

What can LEAs spend funding on?

Funding can be used in any art-related field such as culinary, visual and media arts, performing arts, and design. Investments could include, but are not limited to, the purchase of musical instruments, auditorium upgrades, artists in residence, murals, sculptures, professional development, individual sponsorships and other expenditures that help provide high-quality educational opportunities for all public school students. These funds should supplement schools' arts programming and not remove arts-related expenses from operational budgets. These funds can also be used to leverage other funding sources, including federal funding.



How can I get involved?

Submit your offerings to school districts here. You will be asked to provide basic identifying information and descriptions, pricing and dates (if applicable) of your offering(s). For questions about your submission and this initiative, please contact Ashley Cullinane at ashley.cullinane@ride.ri.gov.

Who can schools partner with?

RIDE is coordinating with the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) and the Rhode Island Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion to expand outreach into the arts community statewide. Through the outreach, RIDE will create a resource guide of offerings from organizations and individuals in various disciplines.

Will LEAs allocate an equal amount of funding to each of their schools? What if they want to use the funding on one large project?

LEAs are free to allocate resources between schools, if some amount is awarded to each school. The purpose of this funding is to have an impact on as many students as possible, while engaging the school community in the decision-making process.

How will LEAs be monitored? Will they be required to submit plans?

LEAs will receive the funding agreements and guidance from RIDE that includes access to Rhode Island private and non-profit arts-related individuals and entities that can help assist them in planning. Similar to the SBA Capital Fund and PayGo request process, LEAs submit their invoices to RIDE for review and payment.

Who did RIDE include in the planning process for this initiative?

RIDE has spent the last three months engaging with stakeholders such as the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA), Rhode Island Division of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, higher education, and outside organizations to determine a plan for this rollout and ensure we provide LEAs the assistance they need in turning their ideas into reality.

QUESTIONS?

For further questions, please contact **Ashley Cullinane** at Ashley.Cullinane@ride.ri.gov

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