

Project Abstract

“Rockford Cultivation of Creative Minds Program” seeks to establish a K-12 comprehensive fine arts program addressing the skills necessary to produce quality programming, cultivating greater awareness and appreciation for cultural diversity, problem-solving skills, creative integration of technology and making systemic changes to increase student engagement, improve achievement, and re-invigorate the teaching and learning process through the arts. Through the professional development model, 1) effective arts integration into the core middle and high school required core curriculum will improve Common Core Standards instructional delivery, and improve skills in creating, performing, and responding to the arts and 2) National Core Art Standards-based arts education will improve current practice strengthening at the all levels, embedding instructional technology into all arts disciplines. Essential to the fidelity of this model is a strong partnership with the arts-related community, the Kennedy Center Partners in Education and the schools of the Rockford Public School District (RPSD). The Arts Instructional Coaches/Trainers (Rockford Area Arts Council and Community Arts Partners) will focus on in-depth professional development through strengthening arts discipline-specific content knowledge and then application in the classroom through a coaching model using reflective practices to continue teacher growth and comfort levels. “Rockford Cultivation of Creative Minds Program” is designed as systemic, research-based arts professional development approach to support teachers working with students at risk of educational failure.

The Rockford Public School District in Rockford, Illinois, serves over 29,500 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students. With high poverty and dropout rates in the district, in addition to **low performance scores**, it is essential have quality teachers. Our stakeholders are confident and enthusiastic about the potential for success!

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