Integrating Arts and Common Core to Ensure Student Success (iACCESS)

Integrating Arts through Common Core to Ensure Student Success (iACCESS) will build capacity in Fresno Unified School District (District) to provide arts integration professional development (PD) at high poverty elementary schools and will enable teachers to deliver rigorous arts instruction in California Visual and Performing Arts standards integrated with Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts (CCSS in ELA). iACCESS will train teachers to implement an integrated curriculum aligned to Big Ideas in the grade level scope and sequence and will require students to demonstrate their understanding of CCSS in ELA through arts-based performance tasks aligned with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium model. iACCESS will train teachers in the assessment of student learning in the arts using a unique digital tool, the Mobile Online Arts Assessment Tool (MOBART). iACCESS will investigate the causal link between arts integration PD and student achievement on targeted standards.

After four years, the District will have a field-tested model of standards-based integrated curriculum in theatre, visual arts and media arts for grades 3-6 aligned to CCSS in ELA with all needed resources to implement accessible through the project website. 10 lead teachers (160 hours) and 100 classroom teachers (60 hours) will have received intensive arts integration PD. Finally, the District will have key data that ties arts integration PD to student achievement in the arts and CCSS in ELA gathered by the MOBART. Because this project is embedded in the District’s Any Given Child initiative and because the district has a commitment to arts integration for student achievement, iACCESS will build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population using the resources developed for the project.

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