ABSTRACT: STEM and Arts-infused Learning (SAIL)

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STEM and Arts-infused Learning (SAIL) is a partnership of Puget Sound ESD, Seattle Public Schools (SPS), and two SPS elementary schools with high ethnic, English language learner, free and reduced lunch, and at-risk student populations. SAIL goals are to: 1) increase teacher content knowledge in the arts; 2) expand and enhance the Arts Impact model, a standards based arts education professional learning model that trains teachers to integrate the arts to include Project Based Learning and educational technology; 3) integrate standards-based arts instruction with STEM content areas; and 4) improve teacher effectiveness through the use of high-quality digital tools and materials.

Teachers will engage in three years of technology-enhanced professional learning based on Arts Impact’s innovative model integrating the arts with STEM content areas. SAIL will investigate the impact of embedding short video clips directly into on-line versions of its lessons demonstrating arts techniques, skills and teaching practices. These “just-in-time” supports will serve to increase and sustain teachers in their new practice of integrating the arts; increase the likelihood that they will make arts integration an ongoing part of their practice; and better support teachers’ professional learning goals as they seek to improve their effectiveness. SAIL will test a variety of digital tools to use in creating Project Based Learning arts-infused STEM units and train teachers in using educational technology to improve instruction. SAIL will use on-line professional learning opportunities to improve on-going teacher support and implement up-to-date electronic communication to provide timely notification and reminders of upcoming learning opportunities and resources.