



**Abstract:**

*Elevate with Arts Integration (Project Elevate)*

**Sarasota County Schools:** 1960 Landings Blvd, Sarasota, FL, 34231

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Sarasota County Schools and its partners, the Center for Partnerships for Arts Integrated Teaching (PAInT) at the University of South Florida- Sarasota-Manatee, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, will use arts-integrated instruction to achieve these goals: (1) Students will improve academic performance and learning engagement through consistent and sequential arts-integrated experiences; (2) Teachers will consistently, sequentially, and continuously integrate arts into their instructional practice.

Spending one day at each of four Title I elementary schools, an experienced master-teacher (Arts Integration Specialist) will model, coach and use digital tools to collaborate with more than 75 classroom and arts teachers plus additional pre-service interns. Each participating teacher will receive over 90 hours of intensive and sustained training in creating and teaching arts-integrated lessons. Developing a cadre of skilled veteran teachers and a pipeline of trained rookies who can mentor peers will ensure sustainability. As a result, students who normally would have limited exposure to the arts will regularly engage with them through arts-integrated experiences.

*Project Elevate's* primary expected outcomes are to: (1) Increase student academic performance in Reading, Writing, Math, and Science through arts-integrated instruction; (2) Increase 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers' proficiency in developing and providing arts-integrated instruction.