

ABSTRACT

The Waukegan Public Schools (WPS), in partnership with National Louis University and America Baila: Folkdance Company of Chicago, proposes to establish the *Arts and Technology Improving Teaching and Learning* (ARTEC) project. It will implement a research-based PD program model designed to strengthen standards-based arts education and ensure that all students meet Common Core State Standards and national arts standards. The project will integrate standards-based arts into 1st to 5th grade curricula to improve student achievement in three low-income WPS schools impacting 45 teachers and 1,125 students each year. The ARTEC project is designed to: (a) develop, enhance, and expand standards-based arts education programs, (b) integrate standards-based arts into language arts curriculum, and (c) improve academic performance of students using the arts, digital tools, and technologies. ARTEC will help students become immersed in artistic endeavors so that the arts become meaningful encounters with their realities, capabilities, and family cultural heritage. Students will discover deeper connections to art and find new excitement and relevance in their learning. Teachers will gain lasting capacity in teaching art and understand how to combine the power of the arts with carefully selected technologies designed to engage students in learning. ARTEC uses strong theory and a logic model which guide project goals and outcomes: (1) Implement a collaborative professional learning community model to enhance teacher performance and arts content knowledge to improve student achievement through integrating standards-based arts education into language arts curriculum; (2) Establish high quality school-based PD and intensive follow-up support to strengthen the teaching of standards-based arts (folk, dance, music, drama, visual, media), using technology and following the Common Core State Standards; (3) Improve student achievement in meeting challenging state and national academic standards by using digital tools, higher order thinking strategies, accessing student schemas and family cultural heritage, and engaging in the arts. **Contact:** Dr. Joan Brixey, Associate Superintendent, Waukegan Public Schools, 1201 N. Sheridan Rd., Waukegan, IL 60085; 847-360-5400; brixey@wps60.org.