Dear Oregon School District Leader,

As you know, school districts will have a great deal of flexibility in determining how to spend their Student Investment Account (SIA) allocations, the largest of the historic Student Success Act investments.

We recognize that district planning work is well underway for this year and that in order to receive your SIA allocation you have been engaged in deep community engagement work. You have likely already begun to find areas of opportunity where the experiences and wisdom of families intersect with an overarching goal of SIA, and your school district’s vision.

As you explore the needs and opportunities in your district this year and in future SIA planning, consider the impact of investments in arts education.

Local and national evidence from a variety of sources demonstrates that high-quality arts education can impact students’ mental and behavioral health needs and reduce academic disparities for historically underserved student groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT (SIA) GOALS</th>
<th>ARTS EDUCATION IMPACTS</th>
<th>EXAMPLE METRICS FOR TRACKING SIA IMPACTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce academic disparities and opportunity gaps for historically underserved students.</td>
<td>Student involvement in the arts is linked to higher academic performance, increased standardized test scores, greater involvement in community service and lower dropout rates. (^1) Students who attend schools where the arts are integrated into classroom curriculum outperform their peers in math and reading who do not have an arts integrated curriculum. (^3) Culturally responsive arts integration using visual arts and theater can improve academic outcomes for students of color and students in special education. (^4)</td>
<td>Examples of data sources for academic achievement may include: ninth-grade on-track; third-grade reading; graduation (on-time and 5th year completion); chronic absenteeism; and local data sources you select. (^2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet students’ mental or behavioral health needs.</td>
<td>Arts education can create space for healthy emotional release and foster a sense of belonging. (^5) Arts education fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration and innovation. (^6)</td>
<td>Examples of data sources for mental and behavioral health may include: culture and climate data; disproportionate discipline (behavioral referrals, suspensions, expulsions); early learning metrics; social emotional learning measures, self-regulation measures, Essential Skills, etc.</td>
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</tbody>
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2 Student Investment Account: Guidance for Eligible Applicants
3 Champions of Change, (1999) p. 55, Figure 5 Imagination Project at University of California Graduate School of Education & Information Studies study: Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education Summary Evaluation
4 Liberating Academic Mindsets through Culturally Responsive Arts Integration
6 Champions of Change, (1999) p. 55, Figure 5 Imagination Project at University of California Graduate School of Education & Information Studies study: Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education Summary Evaluation

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The four categories of “allowable uses” outlined in the SIA: well-rounded education, expanded instructional time, addressing student health and safety (including supporting social emotional learning), and lowering class sizes/adding staff are all inclusive of different forms of arts education.

What follows are examples of how arts education can meet the goals of the SIA in alignment with potential community and state priorities by:

- Boosting social and emotional learning through arts education.
- Catalyzing a sense of belonging for families and students while expanding knowledge and understanding of others through culturally-specific arts learning opportunities.
- Supporting student learning in and through the arts with artist residencies.
- Building community and connection through arts experiences.

These materials are intended to support and inspire you as a district leader as you make your investment decisions this year and in the future. We also recognize that local context impacts the success of any new investments. There are arts advocates across the state ready to connect and support you in exploring how arts education can meet the needs of your students. To learn more or connect with an arts education advocate in your region, contact artsed@oregoncf.org.

Sincerely,

OREGON ARTS EDUCATION ADVOCATES

American Music Program
Art Center East
Arts in Education of the Gorge
Caldera
Chehalem Cultural Center
Cultural Advocacy Coalition
Ethos
Fishtrap
Harney County School District
James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation
Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art
Lane Arts Council
Open Signal
Oregon Arts Commission
Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Cultural Trust
Oregon East Symphony
Oregon Folklife Network
Oregon Symphony
Portland Art Museum
Portland Children’s Museum
RiverStars
Rogue Valley Symphony
Sisters Folk Festival
Teatro Milagro
The Shedd Institute
Umpqua Valley Arts
West African Cultural Arts Institute
Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington