

HOW TO FUND FLEX CURRICULUM AND PRO LEARNING

While the need for visual arts curriculum and on-demand professional development is easy to identify in most districts, obtaining the necessary funding can be challenging. Here are some pathways to consider when seeking financial support for visual arts solutions like FLEX + PRO.

LOCAL FUNDS

Verify if your local school/district has funds available for your visual arts program in their current budget.



GENERAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

Visual arts teachers serve diverse student populations across age and skill levels. Ensure equitable support for art-specific professional development within your general PD budget.



CURRICULUM ADOPTION/ TEXTBOOK BUDGET

Advocate for inclusion in your school's curriculum adoption rotation to access guaranteed funds on a regular cycle. FLEX is a natural fit, and many districts also use funds for PRO as it includes supplemental curriculum and lesson planning resources.



SUPPLY BUDGET/ SUPPLEMENTAL CURRICULUM

Explore options like pooled funds for supplemental curriculum or annual supply budgets to procure FLEX + PRO. Inquire about these resources to enhance your art teaching toolkit.

HOW TO PROCURE FUNDS

Title funds are federal monies (established by ESEA in 1965 and then amended by ESSA in 2015) designed to supplement, not replace, existing state education funding.

1 Ask:

Start with your principal, arts administrator or the specialist charged with applying for federal funds.

If funds are available, ask how to leverage these resources.

If funds are not available, ask how you can request funds for your program.

2 Align:

To qualify for funding, your application must clearly align with the grant program's purpose and preferred activities. An application that closely aligns with a grant's purpose will make it easier for the underwriter to connect the dots and approve.

3 Provide Evidence:

Some grants, like Title I, Section 1003: School Improvement under ESSA, mandate evidence-based interventions. While not all grants specify this, opting for evidence-based interventions can enhance favorability by demonstrating a connection to student outcomes.

4 Ask Again:

If the application is denied, realign the language, strengthen points, and resubmit. Apply for multiple grants using the same application. If multiple awards coincide, consider multi-year product adoption. Federal funds cannot be stacked, but private grants can.

TITLE FUNDS

The American Institutes for Research published a study detailing title funding streams “devoted specifically to advancing arts education” showing that every LEA or school district nationwide has an opportunity to qualify for federal funding under ESSA.

LAST YEAR’S TITLE FUNDS

Sometimes, funds from last year’s title award can go unallocated or allocated but never consumed. A deeper conversation with federal programs may open up an opportunity.

TITLE I, PART A:

SEC. 1003: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Eligible activities under this particular title include arts-focused school turnaround models that feature arts instruction and professional development for arts educators in schools identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement.

TITLE II, PART A:

SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION

Professional development activities for arts educators and visual arts curriculum are eligible activities under this particular title.

TITLE III, PART A:

ELA, LANGUAGE ENHANCEMENT, AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Professional development to build arts educators’ capacity to meet the needs of ELs and acquiring digital resources that support ELs in art classes are eligible.

TITLE IV, PART A:

SUBPART 1: STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT (SSAE) GRANTS

Eligible activities include arts instructional programs that provide students with a well-rounded education including the arts, social-emotional learning, dropout prevention, and more. It also focuses on safe and healthy schools through school climate and safety initiatives as well as the use of technology including instructional support, blended and personalized learning, and specialized professional development.

TITLE IV, PART F:

SUBPART 4: AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

This program aims to promote art education for students through activities such as development of arts-based educational programming, professional development for educators, and collaboration among educators, schools and communities.

NOTE: Congress appropriates title funds each year. School districts submit applications, so when the state receives funds on July 1, they allocate a percentage to individual schools and districts who then have two years to use the funds.

WE WILL HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE NEXT STEPS IN YOUR DISTRICT



Connect with our team today to discuss your needs for a comprehensive solution to support every aspect of what your visual arts teams do!

CONNECT WITH US: artofed.info/flex-pro-connect