



Whole Schools Initiative
a program of the Mississippi Arts Commission

2017-2018 Guidelines

The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) believes that every child deserves to be taught in and through the arts, thus nurturing the imagination and creatively impacting lifelong learning.

Whole Schools Initiative (WSI) – Introduction

For over 20 years, WSI has provided an arts-integrated conceptual approach to redesigning school environments through a program called the Whole Schools Initiative (WSI). For the past 19 years, WSI has provided professional learning for teachers, administrators, parents and teaching artists, through summer institutes and retreats. The content of the workshops are co-created with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and utilizes the Visual and Performing Art Frameworks and the College and Career-Readiness Standards (CCRS).

The four goals of the Whole Schools Initiative are:

- 1. Arts Integration**
To provide learning opportunities to improve student academic achievement through the integration of the arts into the core curriculum
- 2. Arts Discipline**
To increase students' and teachers' skills, knowledge, awareness, and experiences in all arts disciplines
- 3. Professional Learning**
To build a school culture with sustainable systems that support arts integration as an approach to teaching
- 4. Community Involvement**
To increase family and community engagement and understanding of the arts

For more information about the Whole Schools Initiative (WSI) Program, visit www.MSWholeSchools.org.

MAC / Whole Schools Initiative

Arts in the Classroom (AIC) – Level 1

2017-2018 Guidelines

AIC OVERVIEW

The Arts in the Classroom (AIC) program provides an overview of the aspects of the WSI program through professional learning opportunities and site visits to Model Schools. AIC introduces arts integration strategies to schools who serve pre-K-8th grade students: concepts are taught through hands-on experiences that connect the national standards. All content is research-based and created by educators, artists, and cultural institutions.

AIC is a one- to two-year program based on the school's individual needs.

MAC will invest up to **\$3,500** worth of services each year to participating schools, which includes:

- Assigned Field Advisor
- ½ day professional development trainings which include:
 - Arts integration definition
 - 101 Training in all Disciplines
- Registration Fees for five (5) staff to attend the Whole Schools Initiative Summer Institute
 - June 11-15, 2018 @ MS Gulf Coast Community College
- Registration Fees for five (5) staff to attend the Winter Institute
 - February 2-3, 2018 @ the Belden Center in Tupelo

AIC REQUIREMENTS

Participating schools will:

1. **Provide a dollar-for-dollar cash match** (up to \$3,500 in value). During the fall of 2017, the field advisor will collaborate with the school leadership team to create a matching fund document that coordinates with the values of services provided by MAC. Qualified sources may include:
 - Title 1 and 2 funds (for professional development and travel)
 - PTO/PTA funds (including fundraisers, donations, and other related efforts)
 - Schools Fundraisers (*Note: Please contact school district business manager to review rules for school fundraiser in advance.*)
 - School or district funds (supplies, professional development, and travel)
 - Contributions from individual or local businesses
 - *Contact the WSI Director if you have challenges identifying matching sources.*
2. Work with field advisor to **schedule a series of introductory workshops and model lesson demonstrations** for the school's staff.
3. **Identify an Arts Leadership Team** which includes the principal, lead teachers from each grade level and arts specialists.
4. Leadership Team will **plan and implement five (5) WSI Project Team meetings** at the school.

5. Send a minimum of **four (4)** classroom teachers to **two (2) pre-scheduled Model School tours**. *One visit must be outside of the school's region.*
6. Leadership Team will discuss progress of the school with assigned field advisor and **determine if WSI is a good fit**. Send a letter to WSI director indicating your decision by February 1, 2018.
7. Send a minimum of **five (5)** staff to the **WSI Winter Institute**.
 - *If your school community, certified and non-certified staff, is 40+ people, you must send 15% of staff to all WSI-sponsored events.*
8. Send a minimum of **five (5)** staff to the **WSI Summer Institute**.
 - *If your school community, certified and non-certified staff, is 40+ people, you must send 15% of staff to all WSI-sponsored events.*
9. **Project Directors (and/or Co-Project Directors) must attend** the annual Winter Institute, Summer Institute, and all mandatory Project Director meetings.
10. **Principals must attend** one (1) of the following required sessions each year (but are welcome at all WSI-sponsored events):
 - Winter Institute,
 - Model Tour, or
 - Summer Institute
11. **Submit required final project documentation by May 15, 2018.**
12. **Display the Kennedy Center's Arts integration definition** and art elements in each classroom.
13. **Include MAC/WSI logos** on the school's website and all pertinent print pieces.

APPROVED OPTIONS FOR CASH MATCH

- Additional Fees for the WSI Summer Institute
- Staff travel to the WSI Summer Institute, Model School site visits, etc.
- Workshop Fees for Teaching Artists
- Art Prints
- Salary assistance for fine arts specialists
- Substitute fees for teachers who are receiving professional development or Model School site visits
- Specialty items for visual and performing arts activities (i.e. charcoal, oil pastels, rain sticks, musical instruments, scarves, props)

PROGRAM CALENDAR

2017

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| August 15: | Program Acceptance Letter due – this will be sent electronically |
| August 1-15: | AIC Arts 101 Training (new) |
| October 2: | Session Proposals are due for both Institutes |
| November 1: | Notifications will be sent regarding session proposals |
| November 15: | Magnificent Masterpieces artwork due to MAC office |
| December 1: | Last day to submit a contract request form |
| December 4: | Winter Institute Registration opens |
| December 16: | Magnificent Masterpieces Art Showcase (MS Museum of Art 12:00 – 3:00 PM) |

2018

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| February 1: | AIC application draft deadline for new schools |
| February 1: | Applications available online |
| February 2-3: | Winter Institute at Belden Center, Tupelo |
| March 1: | WSI application deadline |
| March 8: | Arts Day at the Capitol |
| April 2: | Summer Registration Opens |
| May 15: | Final Report due to WSI Director |
| May 26: | Registration Deadline for Summer Institute |
| June 11-15: | WSI Summer Institute – MS Gulf Coast Community College |
| July 1: | Award Notifications for 2018-2019 |