

Success Story: Perpich Arts Integration Project



2020 Action Agenda for Advancing the Arts in Education: Priority Area 2 – Support Effective Educators and School Leaders

“Schools are hard to change, innovation is difficult to sustain, but because these teachers have made a strong commitment to their own continued growth and to supporting their students’ achievement and success, this is an optimistic time.” – Pam Paulson, Senior Director of Policy, Perpich Center



Photo credit: Perpich Center for Arts Education

The Arts Support Effective Educators: Minnesota’s Perpich Arts Integration Network of Teachers

As part of the transition to higher learning standards for students, states are also rethinking their systems of preparation, support and evaluation for educators and school leaders. Arts Education Partnership (AEP) partner organizations are working to ensure that all levels of the educator workforce are ready and able to engage the arts as a key instructional resource across all disciplines.

In November 2008, Minnesota voters passed a constitutional amendment creating a sales tax to fund work related to clean water, land, habitat, parks, trails, arts and cultural heritage. The following year, the Minnesota Legislature charged the Perpich Center to develop a high-quality arts integration project.

The Perpich Arts Integration Network of Teachers focuses on standards-based arts integration. It expands the Perpich arts educators network to include educators in content areas outside arts, along with licensed arts teachers. These teacher teams collaborate to develop, implement and reflect on the success of arts-integrated lessons and units. Combining effective practices of past network activity with new, research-based approaches, the Perpich Arts Integration Network of Teachers focuses on:

- Developing rich and engaging assessment activities.
- Facilitating learning that involves complex cognitive processes.
- Building professional communities that focus on making a difference in student learning.

Since the program was established in 2009, the Perpich Arts Integration Project has fostered collaborative arts integration across the state through K-12 teacher professional development and awarding funding to 48 schools, reaching nearly 500 teachers and more than 12,900 students.

Current Location: Northeast and Southwest Minnesota

Population Served: Elementary School, Middle School and High School teachers

Conditions for Success:

The Perpich Arts Integration Network of Teachers relies on an established statewide arts education organization in the form of the Perpich Center for Arts Education, as well as continued funding from the State Legislature. The Perpich Center has helped to shape the Minnesota Academic Standards in the Arts K-12, collaborated with the Board of Teaching to develop teaching licenses in the arts areas, and provided professional development for teachers around the state, so they are able to teach the standards, assess student learning and incorporate community resources into schools. As a state agency, the center works collaboratively with state government, school districts and arts organizations throughout Minnesota, as well as with communities and businesses interested in promoting arts education.

The Perpich Arts Integration Network of Teachers also has a strong collaborative approach that underscores the framework of the program. The project promotes arts integration in K-12 classrooms through professional development and facilitation that allows and encourages teachers to work together to develop and implement arts-integrated lessons that are student centered and standards based. This approach not only increases teacher capacity and knowledge, but results in greater opportunity for students to engage in activities that promote learning.

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Questions to Consider:

- What resources are available in my state to support professional development for teachers and school leaders with a focus on arts integration? What programs are in place?
- What partners would be interested in engaging a network of teachers on arts integration professional development activities that promote student learning and achievement?
- Are there opportunities to integrate the arts into existing professional development networks?

Learn More:

[Perpich Arts Integration Project](#)

[Arts Education Policy Review](#)

[AEP 2020 Action Agenda for Advancing the Arts in Education](#)

[ArtsEdSearch](#) studies on the impact of arts integration professional learning.

About AEP Success Stories

The Arts Education Partnership (AEP), a center with Education Commission of the States, is guided by [The Arts Leading the Way to Student Success: A 2020 Action Agenda for Advancing the Arts in Education](#). To achieve its goal to expand access to high-quality arts learning opportunities for all students, AEP is gathering detailed information on Success Stories that have the potential to be replicated in communities across the country. AEP will use the information gathered to help promote and disseminate these stories through online resources and publications and across media platforms.

The Perpich Center

Perpich Center for Arts Education was born as the Minnesota Center for Arts Education in 1985, created by the state legislature at the urging of then Gov. Rudy Perpich. It was renamed in his honor after his death in 1995. Minnesota is one of only a handful of states in the nation with a dedicated state agency supporting arts education.