

How to Leverage CARES to Fund FLEX Curriculum in Your District

Art education is always important, but during times of crisis, it can provide continuity, stability, and a means to meaningful connection. That's why it's critical to consider the use of CARES funds to purchase quality curriculum to enable art teachers to do this important work. Consider a few ways you could access the funds.

1

IF YOU CAN USE ESSA, YOU CAN USE CARES

You may have already accessed The Art of Education's resource How to Fund FLEX Curriculum in Your District. All of the principals that apply to ESSA apply to CARES as well. If you were working on securing funding through ESSA, you can also pursue CARES funds.

2

FOCUS ON THE SEL BENEFITS OF ART

A primary focus of CARES funding is to ensure that all students are engaged in interaction with teachers and that students SEL needs are met. Be sure to include the benefits of art education for student connection and SEL when you request funds

3

ADVOCATE FOR CONTINUITY IN EDUCATION

FLEX provides continuity between traditional classrooms and distance education. CARES provides funds to help schools smooth the transition, possibly multiple times, as the pandemic continues.

4

AMPLIFY TEACHER VOICES

CARES gives specific guidance that district leaders should reach out to the educators who are closest to students to determine what tools would be the most useful. If art teachers in your district are already using AOEU's FLEX, they are telling you that they believe FLEX is good for students.

5

A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION IS AN EMPHASIS

Much like the specific provisions written into ESSA, CARES emphasizes the need to continue to provide a well-rounded education, even at a distance. Advocate for your students' ability to access quality art programs by supporting art teachers.

6

QUESTION THE WAY THAT THINGS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DONE

If the fine arts department hasn't been a part of the funding and disbursements conversation, ask for a seat at the table. It is important to address the need for belonging and expression. Advocate for funds to support those goals.