

Program #10020B - RACC: Right Brain Initiative 5/7/2015

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** Lisa Whedon
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

The Right Brain Initiative is an innovative, systemic, and equitable approach to arts education, promoting educational experiences for K-8 students that support whole-brain thinking. The Initiative serves approximately 20,000 students and 1,542 classroom teachers and teaching artists located in a variety of urban, suburban, and rural communities within seven participating regional school districts. Right Brain is the only program of its kind in the region that develops artist residencies designed specifically for the needs of each participating classroom, regardless of language, neighborhood, or income.

Program Summary

Launched in 2008, the Initiative has worked tirelessly towards its vision: to transform learning for all children through the arts, creativity, and innovation. By collaborating with teachers and artists, the Initiative delivers creative learning experiences with direct connections to other core curriculum, engaging students as more active learners, developing children’s critical thinking skills, and leaving students better prepared for college and the workplace. Now in its seventh year, the Initiative serves approximately 20,000 students and 1,542 classroom teachers and teaching artists located in a variety of urban, suburban, and rural communities within seven participating regional school districts: Corbett, Estacada, Gresham-Barlow, Hillsboro, North Clackamas, Oregon Trail, and Portland Public Schools. In 2014 an independent study showed that students who participate in Right Brain do better in school, specifically on their math and reading tests. English language learners experience especially dramatic increases in their test scores.

Right Brain is poised to expand into at least five new schools in Multnomah County next year. For each new school admitted into the program, RACC must raise \$5,000 per year to cover the cost of an implementation coach, professional development for teachers and other planning expenses that help schools become familiar with how Right Brain works, and setting up classroom-by-classroom strategies for artist residencies the following school year that will weave the arts into other standard curriculum.

This proposal would sustain the county's investments in the same five new schools for three years (2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18). Starting in year two, each school district matches RACC's investment with their own resources at a rate of \$15 per student, which covers the costs of artists working in classrooms. As a result of this funding, 2,100 more children will experience the benefits of Right Brain learning each year for the next three years, and the five additional schools can become fully invested in the program and experience measurable increases in student performance over the next three years.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY14 Actual	FY15 Purchased	FY15 Estimate	FY16 Offer
Output	Number of participating students in Multnomah County	12,255	N/A	13,160	13,681*
Outcome	Teachers use arts-based instructional strategies as part of regular instruction to engage and deepen learning.	45%	N/A	50%	55%
Outcome	Teachers provide opportunity for creative/critical thinking through arts and address Common Core Standards.	N/A	N/A	46%	60%
Outcome	Right Brain students practice creative thinking, critical thinking and communicate through multiple modes.	N/A	N/A	68%	75%

Performance Measures Descriptions

(*) Please note: In the first year of the program’s implementation at any school, teachers are served, but not students – the first year is always a planning year. In the FY 2016 offer numbers – the # of students served won’t go up significantly until FY 2017.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

N/A

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2015	2015	2016	2016
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$75,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues

Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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Explanation of Revenues

One-Time-Only General Funds

Significant Program Changes**Last Year this program was:**

None