



Mississippi Whole Schools

Whole School

Program Requirements

1. Full attendance and participation of five (5) classroom teachers and one (1) administrator at the annual **MWS Summer Institute** is required for all participating schools.
2. Identify an **Arts Leadership Committee (ALC)** which includes the principal, lead teachers from each grade level, and arts specialists.
3. The Arts Leadership Committee will work with **field advisor** and utilize the MWS Growth Planner to determine and achieve the school's individual goals.
4. Full participation and attendance of the school's program administrative team is required at the **MWS Leadership Retreat**.
5. The Arts Leadership Committee will plan and implement five (5) Whole Schools Project Team meetings at the school to support growth and document the school's progress within the **MWS Growth Planner_ Journey Map**.
6. Send a minimum of four (4) classroom teachers and one (1) program administrator to one (1) scheduled **Model Whole School Tour**. Schools may not visit the same model school in consecutive years.
7. The Arts Leadership Committee will discuss the progress of the school with their assigned field advisor and determine the next Whole Schools application level. Schools considering applying to become a **Model School** should notify the Arts Education Director by November 1st.
8. Host a minimum of two **teaching artists** and consultants to work with staff and model strategies with students.
9. Submit at least one (1) **session proposal** for consideration for both the Winter and Summer Institutes, for a total of two (2) proposals.
10. Send a minimum of five (5) staff to the Whole Schools **Winter Training Event**.
 - If your school community, certified and non-certified staff, is 40+ people, you must send 15% of staff to all Whole Schools-sponsored events
11. Submit student artworks for inclusion in the **Magnificent Masterpieces Online Showcase**.
12. Each classroom of the Whole School should display the Kennedy Center's **Arts Integration definition** and **Arts Elements** poster provided by MWS.



13. Include **MAC/Whole Schools logos** on the school's website and all pertinent print pieces. The recognition should read as follows: *"This project is supported in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency."* When written programs are not used, credit should be given verbally. Logos can be found on MAC's website at <https://arts.ms.gov/grants/grantresources> (scroll to bottom of page).
14. Submit required **final project report** by May 15
15. Provide a \$5,000 **cash match**
16. The school agrees to **notify MAC in writing (using a Mississippi Whole Schools Change Form)** to inform of any changes in the personnel or activities of the project.



Guide Word Descriptors

MWS Summer Institute

The Summer Institute has been a highlight of MWS since the first convening in 1999. The Institute ranges from a 3-day event to a 5-day event. Attendees learn from state and national arts education and arts integration leaders. National trends, data and research, classroom learning experiences, and connections to community are presented.

Arts Leadership Committee (ALC)

The role of the Arts Leadership Committee (ALC) is to model, cultivate, and support arts-based learning within the whole school community. Embedded within the committee is a program administrative team. The full committee, led by the administrative team, provides strong leadership for the campus. This structure is pivotal to the success and sustainability of the arts-integrated approach in the redesign of the school environment.

The Arts Leadership Committee is comprised of lead educators and support personnel. It includes community members in areas as needed for specific projects and goals. Members of the ALC are actively recruited and carefully selected by the program administrators.

The Arts Leadership Committee should be representative of the school's community. Each grade level PLC/POD, service area, school committee and initiative should have representation in the ALC (i.e., program administrators, lead grade level/subject area representatives, specialist representative, and community representation). On average, six to ten members are required for full representation of the school's community. These members often serve on other school committees, thus providing a crossover of information and resources.

Careful consideration of representative strengths, interests and position on other committees should be considered when selecting members. Worksheets and templates for effective committee development can be found on the member page at mswholeschools.org.

MWS Field Advisor

MWS Field Advisors understand and support the overall work of the program. The specializations of a field advisor are as a professional artist with education training, a professional educator with arts training, or a professional with a solid understanding of arts integration and the work and purpose of MWS.

The Field Advisor serves as a consultant for the school and is a support liaison between the school and the Mississippi Arts Commission. Each campus has an assigned Field Advisor who is a mentor for arts education and arts integration. The Advisor is a resource and support for building capacity in arts integration for the school campus.



MWS Growth Planner Journey Map

The MWS Growth Planner is an essential tool for school growth, planning, and reporting. The Growth Planner is designed to track the school's progress over time. Online planners are provided to assist the ALC in developing goals and action steps that address the unique needs of the school. The Planner is a living document that journals current growth as well as building a pathway for sustainability. Growth Planners are updated regularly and document the school's journey. MWS Field Advisors support the school's ALC members throughout this strategic planning process. The Growth Planner webinar and toolbox can be found in the member section of the Whole Schools website at mswholeschools.org. These tools are available for virtual training and provide documents and organizers that can assist the ALC program administrators.

Leadership Retreat

Leadership continually evolves to meet the current needs of the program and the participants. The Leadership Retreat model focuses on informing and empowering principals and project directors as they lead their campuses in arts integrated learning practices. The leadership retreat is a one and a half (1 1/2) day retreat focusing on team building, goal setting, research, and resources.

Model School Tours (Model Tour)

Touring a Model School provides a unique professional development and networking opportunity for schools within the MWS program. Host schools share their journey of arts integration and provide an opportunity for guest schools to see the process in action. This collaborative model supports peer-to-peer learning, providing participants with resources and real-life examples of collaboration, community involvement, teaching and learning, and infrastructural systems within the model school's program and design. More information and a sample tour schedule may be found in the resource section of the MWS member page.

Model School

Model schools are demonstration schools that have developed sustainable practices for learning in and through the arts.

Schools that have committed to arts integration and changed their school's culture through the arts are **invited** to apply as a Model Whole School.

To apply, schools must have

- completed a minimum of three years in Mississippi Whole Schools program.
- completed all prior program requirements and be an active member in good standing
- a minimum of two professional arts specialist on staff
- a comprehensive curriculum plan which supports rigorous and collaborative arts integration planning
- an arts event and training calendar that provides monthly experiences and learning opportunities for the school community
- evidence of school wide buy-in (85% needed for success)



- rotational attendance schedule for all staff members and administrators at the MWS institutes and retreats to ensure all staff are adequately trained
- strategically developed sustainable practices for all four MWS Growth Domains
- the recommendation of a MWS Field Advisor

Model school applicants should be familiar with the **complete** Model School applicant review process. You can find detailed information in the resource section of the MWS member page.

Teaching Artists

Teaching artists are practicing, professional artists who have dual careers as educators. They are committed to the integration of pedagogy and artistry, using their work as artists to inform their teaching. Teaching artists offer a variety of professional development opportunities and classroom lesson demonstrations for the staff and school community.

Whole Schools receive contractual funds to sponsor teaching artist on campus. To utilize these funds, the teaching artists must be on the Mississippi Arts Commission Teaching Artist Roster or another adjudicated roster.

Session Proposals

Peer sessions provide a collaborative curricular model for teachers with a clear vision and understanding of what best practices look like in the classroom. Session proposals or conference proposals are applications to present a peer workshop to other educators in the program. Proposals are reviewed and selected for presentation by the MWS Conference Planning Team.

Winter Training Events

Midyear training events take various formats depending on the stated needs of member campuses. These trainings are developed to focus on arts integration skills and peer to peer sharing. School leaders play a large role in determining the needs and topics of study.

Magnificent Masterpieces Online Showcase

The Magnificent Masterpieces Showcase is an annual art exhibit featuring high quality student work from schools participating in the Mississippi Arts Commission's Whole Schools program. Mississippi Whole Schools from around the state participate in this annual event showcasing authentic student created artworks resulting from an arts integrated lesson. Each piece is carefully selected by the school's arts leadership team and formally reviewed by members of the MWS staff before final approval.

Arts Integration Definition

The Kennedy Center offers a comprehensive and nationally recognized definition: Arts Integration is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form. Students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area to meet evolving objectives in both.

Arts Elements

The art elements are essential components that are included within an artistic piece to help an artist communicate. Understanding these fundamental components is necessary to analyze, evaluate, and create artistic works. Through collaboration with experts across the nation, MWS has identified essential



elements in all four of the major art forms for this work. Posters are supplied to member schools for display in every learning environment on the campus. Additional element charts for instructional planning can be found in the resource section of the MWS member page.

MAC/MWS logos

Include MAC/Whole Schools logos on the school's website and all pertinent print pieces. The recognition should read as follows: *"This project is supported in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency."* When written programs are not used, credit should be given verbally.

MAC's logos can be found on MAC's website at <https://arts.ms.gov/grants/grant-resources> (scroll to bottom of page).

MWS logos can be found in the program resource section on the MWS members page at <https://mswholeschools.org>

Final Project Report

Follow-up reports are assigned to all grantees and may be found within the school's eGrant dashboard. Whole schools will be required to reflect upon the program's impact and provide supplemental documentation and may include:

- program publicity pieces
- model tour evaluations
- events and attendance charts
- Arts Training and Event Calendar
- Update copy of the school's Growth Planner
- Two current teacher testimonials

Matching Funds

Whole Schools must show \$5,000 cash match within the school's follow-up report. (Due May 15th)

Qualified sources may include:

- Title 1 and 2 funds (for professional development and travel)
- PTO/PTA funds (including fundraisers, donations, and other related efforts)
- School 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 Arts Education Director if you have challenges identifying matching sources.

Sample Budget Report

| Match Source | Dollar Amount (\$) |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Walmart | \$500 |



| | |
|----------------|---------|
| PTA/PTO | \$1,500 |
| Title Funds | \$2,000 |
| District Funds | \$1,000 |

Mississippi Whole Schools Change Form

The MWS change form is the Mississippi Arts Commission approved document required for all significant grant and program changes. A fillable form can be found on the resource section of the MWS Member page.



Whole School Specifics and Pacing Recommendations

☐ **MWS Summer Institute (July)**

- Attendance and full participation of five (5) classroom teachers and one (1) administrator at the annual MWS Summer Institute is required for all participating schools.
- If the school community, certified and non-certified staff, is 40+ people, the campus must send 15% of staff to all Whole Schools-sponsored events
- One of the school's project directors is required to attend and may be counted as one of the school's minimum numbers.
- One of the school's administrators (principal/assistant principal) is required to attend. Administrators are not included in the minimum classroom teacher count.
- Whole Schools are provided with registration fees for five (5) staff members and one (1) principal.
- Schools provide travel and lodging fees for the attending staff members and may include those expenses within the matching funds budget report.

First Semester

☐ **The Arts Leadership Committee will work with field advisor and utilize the MWS Growth Planner to determine and achieve the school's individual goals. (Aug/Sept)**

- Assess the schools progress-Growth Planner (Rubric)
- Construct goals and develop actions steps for achieving the goals (Journey Map)
- Identify potential teaching artists to support the work
- Ensure each classroom has prominently displayed the Arts integration definition and Elements poster for instructional purposes

☐ **Applications for MWS Capacity Grant Closes Sept 1st**

- Capacity Building Project Grants range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 and **do not require a cash match** from the applicant schools.
- Proposed projects must align with the goals outlined in applicant's MWS Growth Planner.

☐ **MWS Leadership Retreat (Typically early Fall)**

- Principals and both Project Directors are required to attend.

☐ **Collaborate and develop the school's Arts Training and Events Calendar which includes**

- A minimum of **five (5) ALC planning meetings**
- Monthly arts integration planning and training sessions; both internal and external
- A minimum of **two teaching artist trainings and classroom demonstrations**
- Arts performances and events; both internal and external (field trips)

☐ **Submit two (2) session proposals**

- Whole Schools are required to submit (1) proposal for winter and (1) proposal for Summer
- Proposals should present new and adapted strategies.



- Proposals should be written for the audience it will address and the time slot available. Do not copy and paste classroom lesson plans.
- Peer-share lessons should thoroughly address the content connections and artistic processes when applicable
- **Contract Request deadline - December 1st**
 - Whole Schools are provided with \$2,500 of contractual funds to help support the school's teaching artist training events on campus.
 - Teaching artists should be selected from the MWS teaching artist roster or an approved adjudicated list.

Second Semester

- **Model School Tour**
 - Schools may not visit the same model school in consecutive years.
 - Four (4) classroom teachers and (1) program administrator is required to participate.
 - Ensure all participants complete a model tour reflection form.
- **Magnificent Masterpiece Showcase artwork**
 - Whole Schools are required to submit original student artwork resulting from an arts integrated lesson.
 - Different art forms must be represented. Art form representations should be determined through on-going collaboration with field advisor and arts leadership committee.
 - Schools are encouraged to collect classroom artworks regularly allowing the ALC to review and select each artwork entry prior to the final deadline.
- **Winter Training Event** (typically late January or early February)
 - Attendance and full participation of four (4) classroom teachers and one (1) project director at the annual MWS Winter Institute is required for all participating schools.
 - Whole Schools are provided with registration fees for five (5) participants.
 - Schools may send additional participants at a reduced rate.
- **Document progress and collect supporting evidence**
 - ALC updates the school's journey map during monthly meetings.
 - Program administrators should begin collecting teacher testimonials.
 - Use informal and formal assessments to determine and address the school's needs.
- **MWS applications open Feb.1st and are due April 1st**
 - Whole Schools is a 6-year commitment. Schools submit an application each year.
 - New Model School Applicants must complete a two-day on-site model review in February.
- **Submit Final Project Report (Due May 15th)**
 - Whole Schools must show \$5,000 cash match within the school's follow-up report.