

## **MNMP and District 75 Selected for \$4.6 Million Federal Innovation Grant; Seek 20% Private Sector Match**

### **FOR RELEASE:**

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**New York, NY** – New York City’s District 75, in partnership with Manhattan New Music Project (MNMP), is one of 49 organizations selected from among nearly 1700 applicants nationwide to receive funding under the U.S. Department of Education’s Investing in Innovation (i3) program. The \$4.6 million grant will fund a five-year project developing arts programs for special education students. District 75 and MNMP must secure a commitment for a 20 percent private sector match by September 8.

MNMP and District 75’s winning proposal, Everyday Arts for Special Education (EASE), is designed to increase special education students’ communication, socialization, and academic skills through integrated, arts-based approaches. Both classroom teachers and arts specialists will be trained to integrate EASE activities into their classrooms. Program evaluation will be directed by Dr. Rob Horowitz, Associate Director of the Center for Arts Education Research at Teachers College, Columbia University.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled,” said Kathy London, Arts Instructional Support Specialist for District 75 and EASE’s Project Director. “This is a fantastic opportunity for us to build on our past successful work with MNMP, and really improve the effectiveness of special education teaching.”

The i3 fund, which is part of the historic \$10 billion investment in school reform in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), will support local efforts to start or expand research-based innovative programs that help close the achievement gap and improve outcomes for high-need students. The competition was open to school districts as well as nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education working in partnership with public schools. Applicants were required to demonstrate their previous success in closing achievement gaps, improving student progress toward proficiency, increasing graduation rates, or recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers and principals.

A detailed list of the 2010 Highest-Rated i3 Applicants, along with a summary of the characteristics of the 2010 Highest-Rated Applicants, can be found here:  
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>.

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