

ABSTRACT

- **Project title:** *Everyday Arts For Special Education* (EASE)
- **Type of grant requested:** Development
- **Brief project description, including project activities:** District 75 serves 23,000 students with special needs in New York City, with over 4,000 teachers in 56 schools across all five boroughs. In partnership with the Manhattan New Music Project, we are seeking funding for a five-year initiative to increase the number of effective teachers in special education settings. *Everyday Arts for Special Education* (EASE) is a professional development program designed to improve student achievement in the areas of communication, socialization, academic learning, and arts proficiency through integrated, arts-based approaches.

Through a series of training workshops and extensive in-school support, participating teachers in ten treatment schools will learn skills and strategies across multiple arts disciplines (music, dance, visual arts, and theater) in order to integrate the arts into their classroom instruction. In addition, we will broaden the reach of the project beyond these schools by offering EASE training to other teachers within District 75 through our District-wide professional development program, to special education teachers and college students through Summer Seminar workshops, and to special education administrators nationwide through Administrators' Workshops. Through treatment schools and other training efforts, EASE will serve 40,795 students. The project will be evaluated by Dr. Rob Horowitz, Associate Director of the Center for Arts Education Research at Teachers College, Columbia University.

- **Official Partner:**
 - *Manhattan New Music Project*, one of the leaders in arts education for special needs populations in New York City; longstanding collaborator with District 75