



Turnaround Arts: Minnesota Application

Perpich Center for Arts Education invites your school to apply to participate in Turnaround Arts: Minnesota, an initiative which uses the arts as a tool for school improvement.

Background

Turnaround Arts: Minnesota is an arts and school improvement program, and is part of the national [Turnaround Arts](#) initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. The program was launched in 2012 in collaboration with the White House, the U.S. Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Arts and several private foundations. Turnaround Arts: Minnesota is run by the Perpich Center for Arts Education.

Schools in the national pilot phase of this program [demonstrated](#) increased academic achievement, increased student and family engagement, and improved school culture and climate. Four Minnesota schools (three elementary and one middle school) were chosen for this initiative in 2014. Although evaluation results are not yet available, initial findings point to improvements in school climate, teacher retention, and student behavior, engagement and achievement.

The Invitation at a Glance

What: Applications are open for Turnaround Arts: Minnesota, an arts and school improvement program. Participating schools have demonstrated increased academic achievement, increased student and family engagement, and improved school culture and climate. At the national level Turnaround Arts is a signature program of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

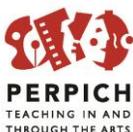
Who: This is a prestigious and selective program. Applications are open to Priority schools. There are currently 4 Turnaround Arts schools in Minnesota, and 49 schools nationwide.

When: Selected schools will begin start-up work in the spring of 2016, with a national conference in summer 2016. The first full year is the 2016-17 school year, and the partnership with the Perpich Center is 3 years total.

How: Eligibility requirements and application instructions are included in this document. The first step, a letter of intent, is due October 13.

School Support and Resources

This intensive, research-based program provides technical assistance and resources to support schools' strategic use of the arts in school improvement. The program offers both uniform and customized support to respond to each school's particular school improvement and arts education-related needs. Being a Turnaround Arts school requires a significant amount of time, planning and partnership from the principal, other school leadership, and teachers.





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Support and resources provided by the Perpich Center and the President's Committee are intended to increase a school's chances of successful, sustained school improvement, as well as provide "quick wins" for its community and raise the visibility of its achievements. Support and resources include:

- **Professional development** for the entire teaching staff and sub-groups of staff including the Arts Leadership Team, arts specialists, and principals;
- Principal, Arts Leadership Team and teacher **coaching**;
- A **national conference** for the school principal and two teacher-leaders to receive planning and instructional support from nationally recognized arts education providers;
- **Strategic arts planning** tools and support;
- Partnerships with **community arts organizations and teaching artists** to provide supplemental instruction and teacher professional development;
- **Seed funds** to support professional development, learning in and through the arts, and other arts-based school improvement activities;
- Supplemental **arts supplies and musical instruments**;
- An arts event in the school with students, families, community and a **high-profile artist** ([click here](#) to learn about actor Sarah Jessica Parker's visit to Bethune Community School);
- Participation in **national high-profile activities**, such as White House events, as appropriate.

School Eligibility

1. The school must:

- Serve the elementary, middle or K-8 grades;
- Be a Priority-, Tier 1- or Tier 2-designated school;
- Be located in Minnesota;
- Be in the early or middle stages of actively implementing a school improvement program;
- Have at least one full-time licensed arts specialist (in any arts discipline) on staff;
- Be engaged in or be open to engaging in building elements of arts education and/or arts integration as part of the strategies in its improvement plan; examples include but are not limited to:
 - Hiring additional full- or part-time arts specialists;
 - Creating partnerships with arts education or cultural institutions to provide performances, teaching artist residencies or other activities;



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TURNAROUND ARTS:
MINNESOTA
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- o Providing professional development in arts integration to classroom teachers of other core subjects;
 - o Providing professional collaboration time to teachers in order to develop arts integrated curriculum or coach peers in arts integration;
 - o Creating a full- or part-time position of school arts coordinator;
 - o Investing in capital improvements in the school to support a creative environment, such as public art projects, dance or art studios; and
 - o Branding the school with an arts or creative focus.
2. **The principal** must be dynamic and enthusiastic about the potential of the arts to increase academic success and student engagement and improve the culture and climate of the school.
3. **Teaching staff** must be open and willing to take on the work of using the arts and arts integration towards the goal of whole school improvement.

Application Process

1. **The principal must submit a letter of interest by email by October 13, 2015** to Alina Campana, Program Director, alina.campana@pcae.k12.mn.us. The letter of interest is a narrative description of your school, not more than two pages long, describing:
 - a. Your school's greatest opportunities and challenges, including confirmation of the school's status as a Priority school;
 - b. Student demographics;
 - c. What interests you in using the arts as a tool in school improvement;
 - d. The school's current arts education program for students (including number of arts specialists and amount of time each student learns in the arts)
 - e. Any arts-based professional development for teachers;
 - f. The strengths and challenges of your staff related to school improvement, and if possible, related to a whole-school arts-focused initiative;
 - g. The principal's background in arts education, if any;
 - h. The district's approach to supporting arts education; and
 - i. Any factors that you think would make your school a good candidate for this initiative.
2. **Selected applicants will be invited in late October to submit the remaining application components by November 25, 2015:**



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MINNESOTA
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- a. Letter of support from the superintendent outlining the support the district will provide to support the work of whole school improvement in and through the arts;
- b. Letter of support from at least one teacher leader, outlining how using the arts as a tool for school improvement would be a good fit for the school;
- c. A copy of your most recent School Improvement Plan;
- d. SIG application, if relevant;
- e. School budget for the 2015-16 school year;
- f. Any additional factors or documents at the state, district, or school level that are relevant.

3. **A site visit will be scheduled in November 2015.** Principals will be notified in late October if their school has been selected for a site visit.

Deadlines and Timeline

October 13, 2015	Letters of intent must be submitted.
November 25, 2015	Invited applicants must submit remaining application materials.
November 2015	Site visits conducted.
January 15, 2016	Accepted schools will be notified.
Spring 2016	Some services and resources are available and start-up work begins.
Summer 2016	Selected schools must plan for the school principal and two teachers to attend the Turnaround Arts Summer Retreat in the Washington, D.C., area. There is no conference fee, but lodging, meals and local transportation costs must be covered by the school.
2016-17 school year	First full year of participation, of three years total.

Contact Information

Please refer any questions to:

Alina Campana, Turnaround Arts Minnesota Program Director
 763-279-4183
 alina.campana@pcae.k12.mn.us



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