

**Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE):  
Expanding Access to Well-Rounded Courses Demonstration Grants CFDA 84.424D**

Extending the promise of a well-rounded education is one of the commitments that serve as a pillar of [Oregon's Consolidated State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act](#). The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) proposes to focus its approach to developing, expanding, and implementing, a course-access program on expanding access to STEAM-related courses. Specifically, ODE proposes to expand Oregon's existing STEM program in continued partnership with the Oregon STEM Council, regional STEM Hubs, and higher education partners and build capacity to develop and maintain an arts program to support districts across the state in providing students with access to high quality courses in the arts and more fully realize STEAM education in Oregon. Course options developed through the proposed grant will be accessible to students through a combination of in-person, online, and distance learning formats to meet the diverse and evolving needs of Oregon's students and communities.

ODE's proposal relies on the following strategies:

- **Strategy One:** Utilizing Oregon's statewide system of regional STEM Hubs and higher education partners to both expand development of STEAM-related course content and provide professional learning opportunities for educators at the local and regional levels to support high-quality instructional practices in delivering STEAM-related courses;
- **Strategy Two:** Increasing ODE's internal staffing capacity to coordinate engagement of Oregon art educators in developing and identifying existing high-quality creative commons licensed arts-related course content;
- **Strategy Three:** Utilizing existing state programs to provide educators with access to STEAM-related course content; and
- **Strategy Four:** Engaging in a competitive procurement process to identify additional partners to help ODE meet the needs of Oregon students in accessing well-rounded courses.

ODE will meet the needs of students living in rural communities, disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities through a combination of strategies. First, ODE will center its process for developing and curating course content and providing associated professional learning opportunities for educators around the principles of universal design for learning with a focus on culturally sustaining practices. ODE's plan for providing students with access to the course-content developed and curated under this grant will emphasize delivery models that will specifically meet the needs of both students living in rural communities as well as in low-income communities that may not currently have access to well-rounded course offerings. To maximize the engagement and participation of students in the target population for this grant, ODE will implement a robust stakeholder engagement process, not just to inform the final grant project design, but throughout the duration of the grant period to ensure that the work happening under the grant is meeting the needs of students and their communities. This will also involve an ongoing outreach and communications strategy to promote student access and participation in course offerings as they roll out.