





that take place during out-of-school time to improve the integration of STEM instruction in those programs; and integrating other academic subjects such as the arts into STEM curricula. In a high-quality STEM opportunity, STEM skills and content knowledge are integrated and learned through exploration, inquiry, problem solving, and often involve real-world contexts or applications.

An LEA may use funds for programs and activities that use music and the arts, which may include dance, media arts, theater, and visual arts, as tools to support student success through the promotion of constructive student engagement, problem solving, and conflict resolution. ArtsEdSearch, a clearinghouse of rigorously reviewed evaluation research concerning the effects of arts on teaching and learning, contains a growing body of research that affirms when part of a well-rounded education in schools, arts learning contributes to increased academic achievement and student success in preparation for college, career, and life.

An LEA may use funds to support instruction in foreign languages, which is essential for students to fully participate in today's global economy and increasingly diverse communities. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages finds that language learning can support academic achievement, provide cognitive benefits, and positively affect attitudes and beliefs about language and other cultures.

An LEA may use funds for efforts to raise student academic achievement through accelerated learning programs, including by: reimbursing low-income students to cover all or part of the costs of AP, IB, or other accelerated learning program examinations; and increasing the availability of, and enrollment in, AP or IB programs, dual or concurrent enrollment programs, early college high schools, and other accelerated learning options. AP and IB programs are designed to help students prepare for college-level work and enable students to take college-level courses in high school and potentially earn college credit based on scores achieved on AP and IB exams. Dual or concurrent enrollment programs and early college high school programs enable students to prepare for college rigor and, through college course enrollment opportunities, graduate from high school with college credits and vocational certificates. Counseling, mentoring, or programs that develop study skills and critical thinking are also important components of accelerated learning programs.

An LEA or consortium of LEAs may use funds to support strategies designed to decrease high school drop-out rates, and to increase high school graduation rates and college-entrance rates and to redesign what

