

Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials (AMIM) Block Grant Plan



Introduction:

Highland Academy is committed to providing a well-rounded and enriching educational experience for all its students. Recognizing the significant opportunity presented by the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials (AMIM) Block Grant, this plan outlines our strategic approach to utilizing these one-time funds. Our priorities focus on mitigating increasing operational costs, investing in high-quality professional development for our educators, and acquiring standards-aligned, culturally relevant curriculum and instructional materials. This plan aims to ensure the long-term benefit of these funds for our students' academic growth, social-emotional well-being, and consistent exposure to engaging learning experiences.

Total HACS Apportionment:	\$194,911
2024-25 Allocation	\$97,456
2025-26 Allocation	\$97,455

Expenditure Plan:

I. Operational Costs:

- *Approximately 70% of Allocation*
- Strategic allocation of funds can address rising operation costs, including those to retirement contributions and healthcare. This will allow us to maintain current staffing levels and prevent cuts to educational programs and student support services.

II. Professional Development Opportunities for Standards Alignment and School Culture Improvement:

- *Approximately 15% of Allocation*
- Professional development is a cornerstone of school improvement, offering educators invaluable opportunities to refine their skills, deepen their content knowledge, and stay abreast of best practices, ultimately leading to enhanced teaching effectiveness and student achievement. Specifically, standards-based trainings empower teachers to align their instruction with learning objectives, ensuring that students master essential concepts and skills. Furthermore, professional development focused on improving school culture cultivates a more positive and collaborative environment where educators feel supported, valued, and connected, which in turn fosters greater job satisfaction and a more engaging and supportive learning atmosphere for students. By investing in these targeted professional development opportunities, Highland Academy can

create a dynamic and continuously improving ecosystem that benefits both staff and students alike.

III. Curriculum and Instructional Materials:

- *Approximately 15% of Allocation*
- Updated Core Subject Instructional Materials: We will strategically invest in updated and engaging instructional materials for core subjects such as English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, ensuring alignment with current state standards and best practices in pedagogy. This may include textbooks, digital resources, manipulatives, and hands-on learning materials.
- Supplemental Materials for English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities: We will allocate resources to acquire supplemental instructional materials and resources specifically designed to support our English Language Learners and students with disabilities, ensuring equitable access to the curriculum and differentiated instruction.

Timeline and Evaluation:

The expenditure of these funds will be strategically phased over the allowable period, with initial focus on addressing immediate operational cost pressures and laying the groundwork for professional development. Curriculum and instructional material purchases will be aligned with professional development initiatives to ensure effective implementation. The impact of these expenditures will be evaluated through student achievement data, teacher feedback, classroom observations, and student engagement surveys. This ongoing evaluation will inform any necessary adjustments to our implementation plan to maximize the benefit for our students.

Conclusion:

Highland Academy is confident that this AMIM Block Grant Plan will allow us to make significant and lasting investments in our school community. By strategically addressing operational costs, empowering our educators through targeted professional development, and providing our students with high-quality, relevant curriculum and instructional materials, we will further our mission of providing an exceptional educational experience that prepares all students for future success.