



**Regional Arts &
Culture Council**



NEWS RELEASE

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The Right Brain Initiative adds six new schools and one new district

This school year, the Oregon Trail School District becomes the fifth district to partner with The Right Brain Initiative, a program of the Regional Arts & Culture Council that is working to restore arts education for all K-8 students in the region. Oregon Trail has enrolled one school in the program in 2011-12, and other participating districts have added another five schools, bringing Right Brain's total to 31 schools across five districts in the Portland metropolitan area.

Located in Boring, Oregon Trail Primary Academy will be the first partner school from the Oregon Trail School District. "Right Brain is a dynamic blend of curriculum-integrated arts education and professional development in the arts for teachers," said Debbie Johnson, director of teaching and learning, Oregon Trail School District. "We are thrilled to join this region-wide effort to make creativity a regular part of every child's school experience."

In addition, the Gresham-Barlow School District has added three schools (East Gresham, Highland and Powell Valley Elementary), and North Clackamas Schools has added two (Happy Valley and Milwaukie/El Puente Bilingual). Now half (50%) of all elementary schools in North Clackamas are participating in The Right Brain Initiative.

"We are on track to bring Right Brain to all of our elementary schools," said Tim Mills, superintendent of North Clackamas Schools. "This program is doing incredible work with our students and staff, and we feel confident that it will make a positive long-term impact on the health of our district's arts programming while supporting the learning of our students."

The Right Brain Initiative is a community partnership that connects schools with teaching artists. Teachers and artists work together to design classroom experiences that connect the arts with other subjects. Through professional development, principals and teachers gain skills to expand their arts education practice. Districts invest \$15 per child to partner with the program, a cost leveraged more than four times by public and private sources secured by RACC.

Last year, The Right Brain Initiative served 11,321 students and 523 licensed teachers in 25 K-8 schools in four districts -- Gresham-Barlow, Hillsboro, North Clackamas and Portland Public Schools. Of the students served, 54% qualify for free or reduced lunch and 13.4% are English Language Learners. 56% are Caucasian, 22.8% Latino, 8.3% African-American, 6.1% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 5.7% are Native American or multi-ethnic.

Read more about Right Brain's recent developments in its just-released 2011 Progress Report at <http://bit.ly/nesEwc>.

About The Right Brain Initiative

The Right Brain Initiative is a sustainable partnership of public schools, local government, foundations, businesses and the cultural community, which launched its programming in Portland area classrooms in January 2009. The program's vision is to transform learning for all children in the Portland tri-county area through the arts, creativity, innovation and whole-brain thinking. The Right Brain Initiative is a project of the Regional Arts & Culture Council. Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington serves as Implementation Partner. Read more online at TheRightBrainInitiative.org

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