

Frequently Asked Questions about the Institute's *National Overture* Projects

1. *What is the purpose of an IEA National Overture in a local community?*

The *Overture* is a community wide event that is conducted over a 10-14 day period and is open to and involves the whole community. The *Overture* focuses on, brings attention to, and builds greater support for and awareness of the importance of arts integrated education in providing an effective education for all children, regardless of skill level and cultural and economic background, in grades K-12. Presentations and sessions of the *Overture* provide opportunities for educators, parents, community leaders, arts and cultural organizations to learn more about arts-integrated education and to see demonstrations of how this type of teaching and learning is done. The *Overture* is not training or professional development. The *Overture* is an opening and beginning to more long-term and substantial work with the schools, arts and cultural organizations, and community groups in developing and supporting this type of learning experience for all students.

2. *Who plans the National Overture?*

The Institute for Education and the Arts works closely with the local Advisory Committee and the Local Coordinator in planning and implementing the *National Overture*. The local Advisory Committee is comprised of education, arts, cultural, business, civic, youth group and key community voices. The local coordinator is a local person identified and selected by the schools and Advisory Committee and approved and paid by the Institute.

3. *What are the expectations and roles of school superintendents, principals, curriculum directors, and any other administrative leaders?*

Administrative leaders will participate in various different events that are designed to build administrator awareness and support for the *Overture* and teaching and learning through the arts. These events are scheduled and developed with the district administration, local coordinator and Advisory Committee. There will also be ample opportunity for direct involvement in planning and participating in the *Overture* and the follow up program. As plans develop, administrators will be approached for additional information about specific teachers, programs and models related to effective arts integrated instruction that can become part of the *Overture* program – or part of the follow up program. Administrators will also be asked to help identify appropriate locations in their schools and buildings for *Overture* programs and demonstrations. And from time to time, administrators will be asked for their general response to the *Overture* plan and its follow up as they are developed.

4. *What are the expectations and roles of teachers in the National Overture?*

Some teachers will be recommended and identified as potential presenters for the *National Overture*. The majority of teachers will be invited to attend the *Overture* events and provide feedback on these to the Institute, the local Advisory Committee and the local coordinator.

5. *Are there costs to the schools and teachers for participation and attendance at the Overture?*

No, all events are free of charge. The Institute works with national and local funding sources to raise the money to cover the costs of the Institute.

6. *What follows the National Overture?*

As the *Overture* is designed to bring attention and awareness to arts-integrated education, the plans that develop from and follow the *Overture* are designed for sustained, long-term programming to prepare educators, continue and expand community involvement, and make arts-integrated education a regular and frequent experience for all students. The Institute, the Advisory Committee and the local coordinator will collect information and feedback from the schools, community and local organizations about local programs, professional development, strengths, interests, and needs throughout the planning process and the implementation of the *National Overture*.

This information will help inform and design the specifics of the follow up plan. In general, the follow up plan will consist of three main components: Professional Development for educators; the local Advisory Committee; and Roundtables and other Public Dialogues. The focus of the professional development component is to build upon and connect the existing school and community based professional development opportunities related to effective arts integrated education so that there is a cohesive and coordinated approach to providing professional development to all teachers on a regular and ongoing basis. The Advisory Committee, which was established to help plan the *National Overture*, will take on the additional element of long-term planning for supporting the professional development plan that emerges. The Public Dialogue and Roundtable component focuses on establishing and supporting ongoing conversations and discussions about the impacts and challenges of arts-integrated education for all members of the community, in order to help build awareness of and support for this approach to education and also to actively involve more community members in the schools and education.