Becoming an ABC Site:

- The mission of the ABC Project is to provide leadership to achieve quality, comprehensive arts education (dance, music, theatre, visual arts and creative writing) for all students in South Carolina.
- Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Advancement grants are funded by the SC Arts Commission. The grants support ongoing comprehensive planning, strategic projects and implementation of standards-based arts education initiatives. Funds may be used for arts materials, equipment, professional development, field trips, artist-in-residence programs and other activities as defined by the school's strategic arts education plan. The goal of the strategic arts education plan is to provide a comprehensive arts education (in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, media arts and creative writing) based on the 2010 South Carolina Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum Standards.

Timeline:

- Contact the ABC Project www.winthrop.edu/abc to set up an initial meeting with key arts and classroom teachers and administration to discuss the intent of the school arts education plan.
- Contact SC Arts Commission Regional Coordinator to create a partnership www.southcarolinaarts.com/staff. ABC grants are funded currently at $7500 through the SCAC. The ABC grant is a three year cycle, but awarded on an annual basis. The contract is for one fiscal year - July to June. In the two years schools are not applying, grantees are awarded the amount based on their initial grant award and the availability of funds. If the SCAC budget is reduced or increased, the award could be reduced or increased. A final report is submitted yearly documenting spending of funds and progress of strategic plan.
- Build awareness and commitment within the school community including parents to arts education.
- Identify and engage partners from the cultural community
- Form a Strategic Arts Steering committee for the school from school community including parents and students and the cultural community.
- Attend the Arts Education Leadership Institute (AELI) in July to write a five year strategic arts plan.
- If not attending AELI, write a five year strategic arts education plan.
- Form a grant writing team to write the ABC grant. One team member becomes the grant manager.
- Submit the five year strategic arts education plan to local school board for approval.
- Attend ABC grant training if offered, and upload ABC grant by January 15.
- Make school budgetary decisions that reflect commitment to arts education.
- Begin to build staff in the arts adding disciplines not currently taught.
- Visit ABC sites in region and state to see how each program is unique to each school.
- Develop a comprehensive standards based arts education program tailored to the school population and needs.
- Document professional development attended/led by teachers. On the ABC grant this refers to professional development offered outside of school/district concerning standards-based arts education, such as SC State Department of Education-sponsored institutes and state and national conferences for arts education professionals. ABC sites may apply to be on the waiting list for the free SCDE Summer Arts Institutes by contacting Cheryl Taylor taylorc@winthrop.edu in the ABC office.

Management of the ABC Grant & Responsibilities of Sites:

- The grant manager coordinates residencies, field trips, purchases and works with the school/district grant coordinator to assure all funds are spent responsibly and submits final report in May yearly.
- ABC Advancement grantee (known as ABC Sites) is expected to send representatives to Networking days during the school year to meet with colleagues from other current ABC sites and updates on arts education.
- The ABC Project pays for two substitutes so administrators, classroom and arts teachers can attend networking meetings in the fall and spring yearly.
- ABC grant funds can be used to provide travel and subs if more teachers wish to attend.
- Team members who attend Networking days, professional development conferences and workshops are required to share information with the entire faculty and steering committee.
- Principals are encouraged to join the Peer to Peer Arts Administrators group and attend its yearly two day professional development conference in February and workshop in July in Columbia.

Christine Fisher  Arts in Basic Curriculum Project, Director  fishter@winthrop.edu  803.323.2455
Kathe Stanley  Field Services Specialist  stanleykr@winthrop.edu  803.323.3010
Arts Education Strategic Planning:

- A strategic arts education plan is designed to serve as a guide toward the development and implementation of a quality arts education program. It should meet the needs of all students at all levels of the instructional process. The plan should be grounded in the overall educational philosophy and should be consistent with the primary mission of the district or school.
- Before strategic planning begins complete the Opportunity-to-Learn surveys that address the conditions needed for (1) curriculum and scheduling, (2) staffing, (3) materials and equipment, and (4) facilities. The survey helps schools determine materials and programs needed to have a quality arts education program. http://www2.winthrop.edu/abc/learn.htm
- Based on the needs of the original ABC Advancement Sites, the ABC Project developed the ABC Arts Education Strategic Planning Manual. The manual is designed to support the strategic planning process model.
- A series of worksheets will guide participants through the planning process. The manual is structured to serve as the basis of planning team deliberations and to facilitate attainment of consensus on major plan components. Specifically, agreement must be reached with regard to the following:

1. The significant challenges facing arts education in the district or school.
2. The arts education philosophy of the district or school.
3. The district’s or the school’s mission with regard to arts education.
4. The district’s or school’s long-term arts education goals.
5. The specific strategies by which the district or school will work toward the designated goals.

These five features form the basic structure of the plan. Comprehensive action plans address key issues related to priority activities, schedules/timelines, associated costs and leadership responsibilities.

Crucial to a successful planning effort is the strategic plan steering committee. The team should include broad-based representation, not only from the educational community, but from the larger, external community as well. This steering committee must continue to function as the guiding committee and meet on a regular basis to review and revise the school’s arts education strategic plan.

The steering committee serves as the advisory board at an ABC site. The steering committee is charged with ensuring the Strategic Arts Plan meets the ongoing needs of students in arts education, arts integration, and provides advocacy for the arts within the educational institution and larger community.

The steering committee is made up of at least 15 members.

- The steering committee should represent all aspects of the school’s make up including but not limited to teachers, teaching assistants, school and district administrators, parents, students, community members, artists and arts organizations.
- The steering committee is required to meet at least three times a year, maintain an attendance roster, and record minutes from each of the meetings to be included as part of the ABC final report. http://www.southcarolinaarts.com/grants/aie/abc.shtml
- Steering committee responsibilities include subcommittees designed for specific duties such as arts education advocacy, press releases, special programs, parent involvement, and areas of interest pertinent to the school/district.
- Each meeting should include reading, updating, or sharing some portion of the school's strategic plan to move the goals of the school arts education strategic plan forward.

The ABC Project will provide strategic planning workshops at no charge. Please contact the ABC Project for further assistance.

Christine Fisher  Arts in Basic Curriculum Project, Director  fishter@winthrop.edu  803.323.2455
Kathe Stanley  Field Services Specialist  stanleykr@winthrop.edu  803.323.3010