At the intersection of folklife, anthropology and education, FAIE programming gives students the opportunity to:

◊ Explore sense of place and cultural identity, metaphor and story, ethnic celebrations and other traditions;

◊ Observe artists while they work and learn about their cultural backgrounds;

◊ Interact with instruments, tools, and objects, and become makers of their own art; and

◊ Safely discuss deeper issues with their teachers and families, such as cultural differences and the thought and

The folklife centers listed here are co-sponsored projects of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

New Jersey’s Folk Arts in Education initiative is a program of the state’s five folklife centers, serving schools throughout New Jersey. The program offers in-class residencies led by tradition bearers in music, dance, crafts, oral expression, and other art forms.
The folk and traditional arts are rooted in the cultural life of a community with members sometimes sharing a common heritage, language, religion, occupation, or geographic region.

These vibrant artistic traditions are shaped by values and standards of excellence, and are passed down from generation to generation, most often within family and community, through demonstration, conversation, and practice.

FAIE invites dialogue that fosters students’ mutual respect for diverse beliefs and values, and enriches their humanity by better understanding their own ethnic identities and