

# Increasing Access to the Arts

## What to Learn from Your State's ESSA Plan

Access to arts education varies from state to state, as well as requirements for its inclusion in school curricula. Under ESSA, states may add arts education or training in teaching in the arts to allowable uses for Title I school improvement funds, Title II funding for professional development, and/or Title IV's Student Support and Enrichment Grants.

## Guidance for School Improvement

Access to arts education linked to academic achievement, social and emotional development, and positive school climate.<sup>12</sup> Incorporating arts education in school improvement strategy can include offering additional courses, after school programming in the arts, and/or arts integration into existing curricula. LEAs and schools should consider partnering with local non-profits, artists, and arts communities (e.g. theater companies, etc.) to offer opportunities for arts education to all students.

## Find Support for this Strategy in ESSA

TITLE I, PART A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies

TITLE I, PART B: Developing Standards and Assessments (including in the arts)

TITLE IV, PART A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

## Essential Stakeholders

- ✓ Students and families, including students of color, students with disabilities, English learners, students experiencing homelessness or foster care, and other subgroups of student identified under the law
- ✓ Teachers and school leaders, including arts educators (e.g. fine arts, drama, dance)
- ✓ Community and nonprofit organizations with a focus on arts education and/or educator training

## Ask the Experts

- ✓ [ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts](#) (Education Commission of the States)
- ✓ [ESSA and the Arts](#) (Arts Education Partnership)

12. <https://www.edutopia.org/arts-music-curriculum-child-development>

### Spotlight on Illinois Arts Accountability Indicator



In response to more than 3,000 comments during their ESSA state plan development process, Illinois put together a committee to develop an arts indicator to be included in their accountability system in 2020. This “Fine Arts” indicator will be weighted for all schools..

*Learn more from the Arts Alliance Illinois at [artsalliance.org](https://artsalliance.org).*