



ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts Accountability

In December 2015, the U.S. Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) providing state and district leaders with increased flexibility to best meet the needs of all students. This increased flexibility allows these leaders to look beyond the traditional methods of approaching student achievement and find innovative solutions for ensuring that all students have the opportunity to experience a well-rounded education — one that pushes beyond the subjects of reading, writing and mathematics, and includes the arts, sciences and humanities as essential components.

State accountability systems serve the important purpose of establishing the metrics by which the state will know if it has achieved its goals. As part of the requirements for receiving Title I funding, states must identify the components of their accountability systems with special attention given to the indicators required by ESSA, which include at least one measure of school quality or student success. This final indicator opens the door for opportunities within the arts. Download the full report: [ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts](#).

Highlights From ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts

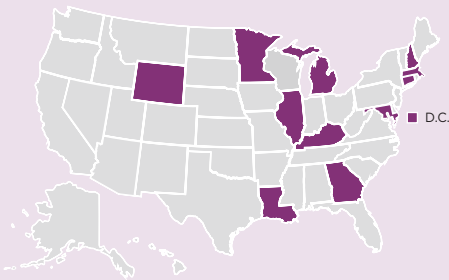
Student and Educator Engagement

The arts serve as a powerful tool for engaging students and educators in their schools and their learning. For this reason, states can incorporate arts measures, such as participation in arts courses or co-curricular activities, as indicators in their accountability plan.

School Climate

States can incorporate the arts when developing measures of school climate. Questions related to the arts in the school could be incorporated into parent, educator and student surveys for accountability purposes.

2017 STATE ESSA PLAN EXAMPLES



- **Connecticut** and **Illinois** include access and participation rates in music and arts education as part of their planned accountability systems under ESSA.
- **Connecticut's** state plan focuses on access to and participation in the arts at the secondary level, which will be weighted 50 points out of 1550 total points in its accountability system.
- Eight state ESSA plans — **District of Columbia, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan** and **Minnesota** — incorporate a well-rounded education, which includes the arts and music, as part of their current or future accountability systems.
- **New Hampshire** and **Wyoming** include the arts as options in the postsecondary and career readiness components of their accountability systems.