



# ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts Stakeholder Engagement

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.

Whether by ensuring that parents have a voice in their child’s education, that educators and school leaders play a part in shaping the policies that will guide their work for the coming years, or that local communities have opportunities to support their schools, ESSA strongly emphasizes the value of consulting and collaborating with stakeholders. This focus on stakeholder engagement creates many opportunities for arts in education stakeholders to engage and shape ESSA implementation in their state or community. Download the full report: [ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts](#).

## ESSA Stakeholder Engagement Requirements

	State Title I Plans	State Report Cards	District & School Plans for Title I	Innovative Assessment Pilots	State Title II Programs	Student Success & Academic Enrichment Program	21st Century Community Learning Centers
Parents / Families	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Teachers / School Leaders	X		X	X	X	X	X
Community Partners/ Organizations				X	X	X	X
Public Comment	X						

Please note that this list is not intended to be exhaustive and these stakeholder groups are only those required to be engaged by ESSA. ESSA does not limit stakeholder engagement to these groups, and many states and districts are engaging with additional stakeholders beyond what ESSA requires for a specific program or funding area.

## Paths for Stakeholder Engagement

Although all states and districts have the same requirements for stakeholder engagement, the strategies used vary from state to state and district to district. Therefore, it is important for arts in education stakeholders to learn how their state or district approaches stakeholder engagement. Examples of paths utilized for stakeholder engagement include public comment periods, listening tours/town hall meetings, mass stakeholder surveys, statewide focus groups, targeted stakeholder meetings and advisory groups.

### INDIANA ARTS EDUCATION NETWORK



Knowing that the implementation of ESSA opens the door to many opportunities for shaping education in **Indiana**, a group of arts education stakeholders from across the state joined together to form the **Indiana Arts Education Network** (IAEN). Led by business leaders from the state’s music manufacturing industry, the group met twice in fall 2016 to identify goals for the group and strategies for engaging with the development and implementation of the state ESSA plan. In particular, the group focused on ensuring the state includes the arts in its plans for expanding access to a well-rounded education for all students. Over the course of the fall, members of the IAEN participated in the Indiana Department of Education **ESSA Listening Tour** hosted by the Indiana Department of Education and met with state education leaders to discuss the importance of the arts in education.