



## ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts State Plans

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.

In order to receive funding under Title I, Part A and Title IV, Part A of ESSA, states must submit a state plan to the U.S. Department of Education that, among other items, includes a description of the state's assessment, accountability and reporting systems, as well as how the state will provide support for a well-rounded education. ESSA's flexibility allows many opportunities for incorporating the arts into these plans. Download the full report: [ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts](#).

### Highlights From ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts

#### Standards

ESSA requires states to have adopted challenging academic content standards for mathematics, English language arts, science and any other subject the state would like to include. Although not required, states have the option to adopt new or updated academic standards in any subject, including the arts.

#### District and School Report Cards

Every district that receives funding under Title I, Part A must release an annual report card at the school and district level. ESSA requires states to include student achievement and any additional indicators that will help parents and other education stakeholders understand the status and progress of the school/district on these report cards. This requirement creates pathways for including arts indicators, such as participation in arts classes/courses or the number of students per certified arts educator.

#### State Report Card

ESSA requires states to develop and publicly release annual reports on the state's overall education system. Potential opportunities for incorporating the arts within the development of the state report card system include state accountability system indicators and district and school report card measures.

### STATE EXAMPLES: ARIZONA, NEW JERSEY AND OREGON



**Arizona, New Jersey** and **Oregon** will present information on student access to a well-rounded education, including arts and music programs, on their school report cards.