



ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts Title I, Part A

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.

The programs of Title I, Part A of ESSA are designed to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality education, support students who are academically at risk and help close the achievement gap. With the new flexibility established by ESSA, states have a number of opportunities for engaging the arts in these educational priorities. Download the full report: [*ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts.*](#)

Highlights From ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts

State Plans

As part of state plan accountability systems, states must include at least one indicator of school quality or student success beyond student achievement, graduation rates and English proficiency. A state could adopt arts-related indicators for its school quality or student success indicator(s).

Local Education Agency Plans

To receive Title I funding, a district must describe how it will identify inequities in educational opportunities and help close the achievement gap for all students. These plans must include a description of how the district will provide a **well-rounded education** — which includes the arts and music.

Schoolwide Programs

Schools can use funding under this section of Title I, Part A to establish and implement plans based on a needs assessment to improve the education program of the entire school. As a part of a well-rounded education, these plans may incorporate the arts as strategies to provide all students with opportunities to succeed.

Targeted Assistance Schools

Some schools can use Title I funding to help academically at-risk students meet the state's academic standards. Schools can include the arts as a strategy for meeting the objectives for the Targeted Assistance Schools programs, including in-school, afterschool and summer programs that engage arts-focused learning.

Parent and Family Engagement

Engaging the families of students is an important aspect of ESSA and appears in several areas of Title I.