



ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts A Well-Rounded Education

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 1995, federal education law introduced the arts as a part of the definition for core academic subjects. With the adoption of ESSA in 2015, the term core academic subjects was replaced with a new term, well-rounded education, and expanded to 17 subjects, including the arts and music. Appearing more than 20 times throughout the law, a well-rounded education opens many doors to expand arts learning opportunities for students across the country. Download the full report: [ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts](#).

A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION

“The term ‘well-rounded education’ means courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject, as determined by the State or local educational agency, with the purpose of providing all students access to an enriched curriculum and educational experience.” (ESSA, Title VIII, Section 8002)

Highlights From ESSA: Mapping opportunities for the arts

In addition to finding opportunities to include the arts and music as part of well-rounded education within district Title I plans, schoolwide programs and Targeted Assistance Schools, there are also opportunities within:

Title II Grants

Funding provided under Title II, Part A helps to ensure that all students have access to teachers and school leaders that can support them in achieving the state’s academic standards. This includes a broad range of programs and practices, such as professional development opportunities that increase the capacity for all educators — including arts educators — to support student success.

Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

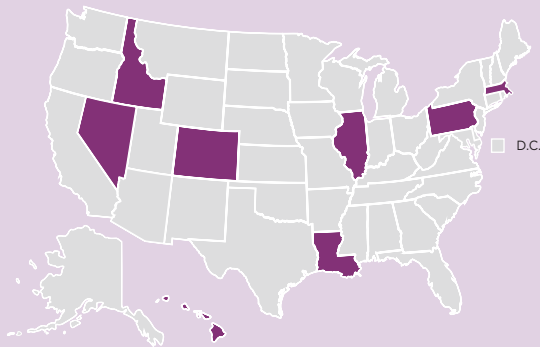
States must submit a plan to the U.S. Department of Education in order to receive funding under Title IV, Part A — the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants. These grants are designed to, in part, help districts and schools provide all students with access to a well-rounded education. Many opportunities for the arts exist within these applications, including arts education programs initiatives that use the arts for student engagement and programs that integrate the arts into other subjects.

21st Century Community Learning Centers: The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is designed to ensure all students have enriched learning opportunities to help them succeed in their education. Through this competitive grant program, districts and community organizations receive state funds to provide additional learning opportunities, including activities that support a well-rounded education.



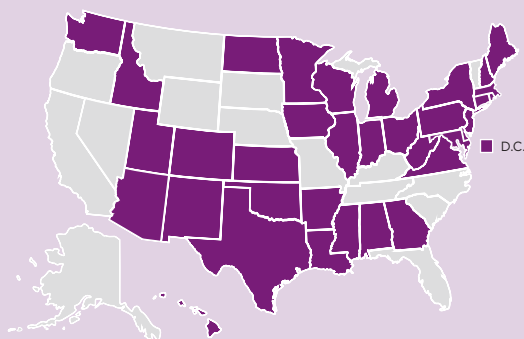
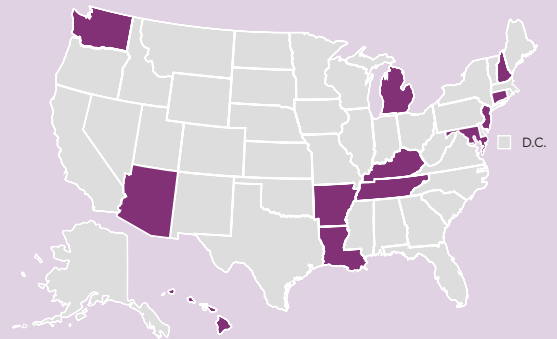
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2017 STATE ESSA PLAN EXAMPLES



Eight states identified professional development opportunities for music and arts teachers in their state ESSA plans. They are: **Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada and Pennsylvania.**

Twelve states include music and arts education as eligible for funding and support through their 21st Century Community Learning Centers. They are: **Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Tennessee and Washington.**



Thirty-six state ESSA plans address music and arts as part of a Title IV-funded, well-rounded education. The states are: **Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin plus the District of Columbia.**