

# ESSA Advocacy in Iowa

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# December 2015

- Met with head of Standards & Curriculum at the Iowa Department of Education
- Talked about implications of ESSA for Arts Education in Iowa
- Presented legislative summaries provided by NAFME and the EdTA

# January 2016

As part of Arts Advocacy Day, all legislative leaders were presented with one-page summaries of what ESSA means for arts education.

The inclusion of the arts as part of a “well-rounded” education in ESSA was communicated to all 150 Iowa legislators. The implications of this inclusion were specified as well.

# May 2016

- A presentation was made by IAAE to the State Board of Education on the adoption of Fine Arts Standards for the State of Iowa.
- The implications of ESSA and the inclusion of the arts as part of a “well-rounded” education were discussed.

# June 2016

- IAAE hosted a Arts Education Summit meeting that brought together 55 arts education advocates, including the chair & chair-elect of all arts education organizations, head of the Iowa Department of Education, Fine Arts Consultant at the DE, head of Standards & Curriculum at the DE, president of the State Board of Education, chair of the Senate Education Committee, college teachers, school board representatives, etc. A presentation was given by Jeff Poulin of AFTA on ESSA and the implications for arts education. The summit was funded by a grant from the Iowa Arts Council.

# July 2016

- Personal meeting with new Fine Arts Consultant at the Iowa Department of Education. Discussions were held on Fine Arts Standards and Committee of Practitioners for the State of Iowa.
- IAAE Executive Board determines that state-wide professional development on ESSA is one of the main goals of our strategic plan.

# August 2016

- Follow up discussions with Iowa Department of Education on ESSA implementation in Iowa
- Interview with Iowa Public Radio on implications of ESSA and what it means for arts funding in our state
- Meetings with music store representatives, local school districts on ESSA implications for arts education

# ESSA Advisory Committee

- Committee made up of 35 administrators, teachers, professional teacher organization members
- Committee met five times from April of 2016 to July of 2017
- Attended as an observer
- Important contacts were made



# Meeting with Iowa Department of Education in January 2017

- Fine Arts team organized by IAAE met with Director & Deputy Director of Iowa Department of Education to discuss Fine Arts components of ESSA plan
- IAAE committee consisted of IAAE board members, state professional organization leadership, IAAE lobbyist & Turnaround Arts Program representatives
- Several of the discussion topics of this meeting were included in the final ESSA plan

# Public Meeting and Online Survey Participation

- 18 public meetings held during 2016-17. IAAE worked through member organizations to have fine arts teachers at all meetings.
- Online public survey was conducted during May of 2017. IAAE worked with Iowa Department of Education Fine Arts Consultant to develop talking points for survey. This information was distributed through IAAE member organizations.

# Fine Arts Components of Iowa ESSA Plan

- Opportunities for LEA's to consider and further student opportunities to obtain a "well-rounded" education, which includes the Fine Arts
- The Iowa Department of Education will actively work with state-level professional organizations (specifically mentioning IAAE) to create exemplars of how fine arts can work effectively to encourage a well-rounded education and promote high levels of achievement for all learners in challenging learning standards.

# Additional Fine Arts Components of ESSA Plan

- The Iowa Department of Education will partner with state-wide organizations to create a clearing house of evidence-based strategies that school districts might incorporate into various components of their ESSA plans to meet local context & needs
- The Iowa Department of Education will collaborate with IAAE to create & disseminate exemplars on how Fine Arts can promote high achievement & identify/disseminate evidence-based strategies in Fine Arts
- The Iowa Department of Education supports the IAAE Fine Arts Teacher Mentoring Program

# Where do we go from here?

- Information distributed to all 150 Iowa legislators of Fine Arts components in state ESSA plan during Arts Advocacy Day in January of 2018 and the implication for arts education in our state
- Testimony for Senate Education Committee in January of 2018
- Sessions at state-wide professional conferences concerning implementation of ESSA at the local level
- Study Committee by Iowa Legislature on current state of Fine Arts education in the the state
- Information on ESSA implementation distributed by school music dealers
- Professional development on newly adopted Iowa Academic Standards for the Fine Arts. IAAE is partnering with the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Arts Council & Fine Arts professional organizations