ESSA: Mapping Opportunities for the Arts
Title IV

Under prior federal law, Title IV encompassed a variety of federal programs, including drug-free schools, charter and magnet schools, gifted and talented programs, arts education and after-school/summer school programs. Under ESSA, Title IV programs continue to evolve, with the addition of new grant programs and the consolidation of others.

Specific to the arts, Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants and Title IV, Part B, 21st Century Community Learning Centers reflect the flexibilities for states to adapt programs to fit their specific student needs and provide opportunities for more robust engagement with the arts. Download the full report: ESSA: Mapping Opportunities for the Arts.

Highlights From ESSA: Mapping Opportunities for the Arts

Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

A new program under ESSA, SSAE grants were created to “improve students’ academic achievement by increasing the capacity … to: (1) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education; (2) improve school conditions for student learning; and (3) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.”

As with Title I, Part A, states must submit a plan to the U.S. Department of Education in order to receive funding under Title IV, Part A. SSAE grants require districts receiving more than $30,000 to assess current opportunities for a well-rounded education — including the arts — and identify areas for improvement. Many opportunities exist, including initiatives that use the arts for student engagement and programs that integrate the arts into other subjects, as well as those addressing arts-based needs specifically.

STATE ESSA PLAN EXAMPLES

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 and Wisconsin, plus the District of Columbia.
Title IV, Part B, 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Continued in ESSA from No Child Left Behind, the 21st CCLC competitive grant program is designed to ensure all students have enriched learning opportunities to help them succeed academically. ESSA includes a variety of services that districts can include within expanded opportunities for before-school, after-school or summer programs — including youth development activities; art, music and recreation programs; technology education programs and counseling — provided they align with students’ regular academic programming and support academic enrichment.

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.