



What Does ESSA mean for Arts Education?

- The “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA) replaces No Child Left Behind, and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for fiscal years 2017-2020.
- Through ESSA, education plans must address a “well-rounded” program of instruction, the definition of which includes arts and music education.
- The approach of ESSA shrinks the federal role in education reform and gives the states more power in decision-making. ESSA also provides a clear directive to the states to engage stakeholders in planning education reform. This means Arts Education advocacy at the state and local level will be more important than ever!
- ESSA provides even more opportunity for Title I funds to be used for arts education and advocating for arts learning as an avenue for turning around low-performing schools.
- ESSA retains programs currently supported by the US Department of Education’s Arts in Education fund, and re-names the program “Assistance for Arts Education.”
- STEM to STEAM! ESSA supports the integration of the Arts into science, technology, engineering and math courses, providing new opportunities for STEAM.
- In ESSA, Pre-School, Promise Neighborhoods, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers all include arts learning as possible avenues.
- Arts and music education are specified in ESSA as eligible uses for new, state-administered “Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.”

Sources:

League of American Orchestras, Education Commission of the States, Arts Education Partnership, Americans for the Arts, National Association for Music Education, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Citizens for the Arts, and Ohio Alliance for Arts Education

Also see:

- Ohio Alliance for Arts Education
http://www.oaae.net/images/PDFs/ESSA_Summary_for_Arts_Education_May_2016.pdf
- Americans for the Arts webinar “Understanding ESSA” at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMQggRO6ILM>
- National Association for Music Education
<http://www.nafme.org/take-action/elementary-and-secondary-education-act-esea-updates/>
- Ohio Department of Education
<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Every-Student-Succeeds-Act-ESSA>