

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) ARTS RESOURCES

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law by President Obama on Dec. 10, 2015. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

Key Highlights (League of American Orchestras, bit.ly/1Q0ZF9R)

- Arts education advocacy at the state and local level will be more important than ever. The overall approach of the bill shrinks the federal role in education reform and hands more decision-making to the states
- The arts and music are included in a definition of a "well-rounded education" - a term that has replaced the current definition of "core academic subjects," which had included the "arts."
- Title I funds may be used for arts and music education, along with other subjects listed in the definition of a well-rounded education.
- The programs supported by the current Arts in Education fund are retained as a newly named "Assistance for Arts Education" fund.
- Arts and music education are specified as eligible uses for new, state-administered "Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants."
- 21st Century Community Learning Center funding is maintained, and arts and music education are specified as eligible for support under "expanded learning time" provisions.
- Accountability requirements are more flexible.

ESSA Arts-Related Resources

- Full Legislative Analysis of All Key Music and Arts Provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act, National Association for Music Education: <http://bit.ly/1LcP1Or>
- "Waiving" Goodbye to No Child Left Behind, Americans for the Arts: <http://bit.ly/1R1VE2A>
- ESEA Reauthorization is Finalized as Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), National Art Education Association: bit.ly/1UuHv3r
- Everything ESSA, National Association for Music Education: bit.ly/21qqRox

Additional ESSA Resources

To assist state education leaders and policymakers, Education Commission of the States compiled a summary of available resources related to ESSA. While not an exhaustive list, these resources will help states as they work to understand and implement the changes associated with the passage of ESSA.

<http://bit.ly/1VqepR4>