Diving Deeper: K-12 Education Policy

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The arts and music are included in a definition of a "Well-Rounded Education"

"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."
The presence of the arts in the Every Student Succeeds Act

Each state must submit a state plan that outlines the state’s standards, assessments and accountability systems and discuss how it will address inequities in the state, including in the arts.
A Well-Rounded Education
Opportunities for the arts in ESSA

• District Title I Plans
• Schoolwide Programs
• Targeted Assistance Schools
• Title II Grants
• 21st Century Community Learning Centers
• Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants
Thirty-six state ESSA plans address music and arts as part of a Title IV-funded, well-rounded education.
Title 4 Part A update

FY2021 appropriations process delayed as Congress focuses on relief funding for COVID-19 pandemic.

Structure of Title 4 Part A remains the same under new Cares language:

- One third each for school safety, technology and well-rounded education
- Waiver process exists to change rules for Title 4, and most other ESSA programs, through an emergency application process.
CARES Act funding for education to date

Total allocation of nearly $31B

- $3B block grants to governors for K-12 and Higher Education
- $14.5B for Higher Ed, with $6B in emergency cash grants for college students
- $13.2B exclusively for local K-12 school districts, distributed through funding formula found in Title I, Part A

✓ Streamlined Department of Education application process
✓ Flexibility in how money is used
✓ Waiver process for FY20 Funds
A push for additional education relief funding

Governors and advocates have called for additional funding in COVID Relief Package 4 & 5 in order to ensure the continuity of education in K-12 schools

A range of $200 to $500B has been suggested to backfill depleted state budgets, including for education
Additional CARES Act funding to the NEA equals $75M

- 60% allocated to recent NEA grantees through a competitive application
- 40% allocated to state and regional arts organizations
  - Refer to your state-regional agency for guidance
The potential impact on arts education programs

• As states review their proposed 2021 budgets, they will look closely at education spending, which accounts for anywhere from a quarter to one-half of most states’ budgets.

• Departments of education will be seeking ways to “make up” lost learning for millions of students and may revise funding to focus on core subject areas, such as math and English.

• Arts education may be deemed as non-essential in some districts, leading to program and staff elimination or cutbacks
We urge Congress to:

- Appropriate $40 million for the Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) programs in the FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The AAE program is authorized under Title IV of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA).
Assistance for Arts Education talking points

U.S. Department of Education directs grants through the AAE program to strengthen the arts as part of a well-rounded education. Arts education grants have served more than 230 congressional districts in 33 states

- **Arts Education Model Development and Dissemination (AEMDD) grants** support standards-based student learning in the arts and integration of arts instruction into other subject areas
- **Professional Development for Arts Educators (PDAE) grants** provide innovative models to improve instruction for arts specialists and classroom teachers.
- The program’s **Evaluation and National Dissemination** component can be adapted by state and local education agencies to provide rigorous arts instruction for all students.
- A **National Program Competition** supports high-quality arts education projects and programs for children and youth, with special emphasis on serving students from low-income families and students with disabilities
Support for arts education in ESSA

We urge Congress to strengthen equitable access to arts education through the Well-Rounded Education provisions of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*:

- Fully fund ($1.6 billion) the Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants under Title IV, Part A.
- Make explicit the opportunity for the arts to help achieve Title I objectives and the professional development opportunities for arts educators under Title II.
- Fully fund ($1.1 billion) the 21st Century Community Learning Centers after-school program.
- Fund the Assistance to Arts Education program at $40 million
- Provide at least $4 million to the Institute of Education Sciences for the administration of the Fast Response Survey System in Arts Education study.
- Restore and appropriately fund the arts in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), including full and robust assessments in dance, theater, music, and visual arts.
ESSA talking points

- The arts and music are included as part of a “Well-Rounded Education” in federal law.
- There are huge, persistent disparities in access to arts education in the schools.
- Title IV-A funds are making a difference.
- The Department of Education’s data collection efforts in all arts disciplines must be strengthened by systematically including pre-K–12 arts education in the School and Staffing Survey, the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), and other data instruments.
- The National Assessment Governing Board should restore the arts to the schedule of NAEP assessments.
- Implementation of the Perkins Act should include all arts education disciplines.
The Status of Arts Standards Adoption

In June 2014, the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards released new voluntary grade-by-grade arts standards

http://www.nationalartsstandards.org
American Alliance for Theatre and Education
Educational Theatre Association
National Art Education Association
National Association for Music Education
National Dance Education Organization
State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education
NCCAS Media Arts Committee
Young Audiences
Rigorous grade-by-grade arts standards

➢ Articulate what students should know and know how to do in the arts as they progress through their K-12 education
➢ Nurture arts literacy through the 4 Artistic Processes of Create, Perform/Produce/Present, Respond, and Connect
➢ Promote the 21st Century skills of creating, communicating, critical thinking, and collaboration that help prepare students for academic, career, and life success.
➢ Serve as an advocacy resource for schools and communities seeking to define the value and purpose of a high quality education in the arts
State adoption of new arts education standards since 2014
The numbers:

- 31 states and the Department of Defense have adopted revised arts standards in one or more disciplines; one state, New Hampshire, has adopted arts competences.
- 10 states are currently in the process of revising their arts standards
- 23 states have included standards for media arts
Getting involved in your state’s arts standards adoption process:

- Contact your state’s State Education Agency Director of Arts Education (SEADAE) to find out the status of adoption or schedule for revision in your state.

  [http://seadae.org](http://seadae.org)

- Review the NCCAS *Status of Arts Education Standards Revision* document in the resources section for FAQs, standards status, and resources about the authorization process.
Covid-19 Digital Resources for Arts Education

AEP Partner COVID-19 Resources for Serving the Arts Education Field

In response to requests from our partners for additional resources that can help them shift operations to online platforms for telework situations, serve their constituents in new ways and care for their employees, we’ve engaged our partners in sharing resources they’ve created and compiled that may be useful to others as we navigate these new ways of working. Visit our website’s newly added COVID-19 Resources page for more information.

https://www.aep-arts.org/covid-19-resources/
Arts Education Unified Statement

All students deserve access to an equitable delivery of music and arts education, as defined in federal law as necessary subject areas, taught by licensed professional educators.

The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) & the State Education Agencies Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) will be issuing a call for national and regional arts education organizations to sign the Arts Education Unified Statement, affirming the continued importance of all arts areas—dance, media arts, music, theatre and visual arts.
Thank you!

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