



Will you take a few minutes before July 22, 2016, to speak up for policies and eligible-funding support for arts education for all students in Florida?



Why Your Voice Is Needed Now — before July 22, 2016:

Florida must complete an implementation plan to submit to the U.S. Department of Education regarding how it will implement the newly passed *Every Student Succeeds Act* ([ESSA](#)), which replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act* — the reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary School Act* of 1965.



ESSA gives the states more power on how they will meet the goals of ESSA, and each state is required to develop an implementation plan. Florida's Department of Education (FLDOE) has an [online survey](#) available through July 22, 2016, for public input regarding the development of Florida's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Implementation Plan.

Florida citizens who understand and support the value and power of arts education on students' success in school and life must share their voices now with the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) and their local school district ESSA planning teams (ask who is dealing with ESSA in your school district).



Easy and Quick Steps for You to Take Before July 22 to Advocate for Policies and Funding Eligibility for Arts Education Throughout Florida:

- 1 Access the Florida Department of Education ESSA Public Input Survey at the link below: <http://www.fl DOE.org/academics/essa.stml>.
- 2 Go to number 8 on the survey — General Comments by Title of the Act (Titles I-VIII).
Once you click on #8, cursor down to TITLE VIII - GENERAL PROVISIONS and share one or more of the ten (10) suggested recommendations on the next page or create your own recommendations. **We must ask the FLDOE and our local school districts to include these provisions in the Florida and local ESSA Implementation Plan/s.**
- 3 Ask your [local school district](#) if it has an ESSA planning team or task force. If it does, share the suggested recommendations on page 2 with them. Ask for their support of these suggested recommendations at the local and state levels.





Below are ten (10) suggested recommendations that qualify for support in ESSA; however, we must ask for these policies and eligibility-for-funding support for arts education BEFORE July 22, 2016, [here](#) — refer to page 1 for details before you complete the FLDOE online survey:

Every student deserves a well-rounded education that includes equitable and high-quality instruction in and access to all of the arts that prepares all students for success in school, higher education, the workforce, and life-long engagement in their communities and in learning.

The Florida Department of Education ESSA Implementation Plan should

1. clearly define in writing that the “arts” include the subjects dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts as part of ESSA’s definition of courses, activities, and programs for a “well-rounded” education; **Note:** the term “all-arts-defined” referenced below means all five of these arts disciplines listed above;
2. include eligibility access to *Title I* funds for all-arts-defined programs that address the needs of and goals for standards-based learning for academically at-risk students;
3. include eligibility access to *Title II* funds for professional development for all-arts-defined teachers, teaching artists, principals, and other educators involved in the development and implementation of instructional delivery for grades Pre-K through 12;
4. include eligibility access to *Title IV 21st Century Schools and Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants* for school and community partnerships that utilize one or more of the all-arts-defined courses, activities, and programs to improve students’ academic achievement by increasing the capacity of Florida’s Department of Education, local educational agencies, schools, and local communities to provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
5. encourage full participation from Florida in the federal *Assistance for Arts Education Grants Program* that involves professional development for teachers; development and dissemination of arts-based educational programming in multiple arts disciplines; and national outreach activities that strengthen partnerships among local education agencies, local arts and cultural organizations, and national centers for the arts;
6. include in Florida’s Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) at least one measure of student engagement, attendance, and academic achievement through participation in one or more of the all-arts-defined subjects;
7. support the integration of one or more of the all-arts-defined-arts subjects into programs and activities that increase participation in STEM to improve attainment of STEM-related skills and promote a well-rounded education;
8. include assessments and evaluation systems for student achievement in the all-arts-defined subjects;
9. support policies and funding-eligibility support for Pre-K education that includes all-arts-defined subjects;
10. integrate all the defined-arts courses, activities, and programs into other goals established in ESSA, such as average daily attendance; evidence-based programs; graduation rates; literacy programs for low-performing students and English-learning students and families; engagement of parents, students, and community partners; school improvement, identity, and engagement; preparation for today’s and tomorrow’s workforce, careers, and higher education; expanded learning time in and out of school; Exceptional Student Education (ESE) programs for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities; programs for gifted and talented students; programs that prepare Pre-K students for greater engagement and effective learning and success in their future school experiences; etc.