**Using Title Funds for Arts Education**

*How the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) expands arts-learning opportunities for students*

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With the adoption of ESSA in 2015, federal education law’s focus on “core academic subjects” was broadened to encompass all the aspects of a “well-rounded education”—including, by definition, the arts. This gives schools and districts more flexibility to use Title I funds to support arts programming for their students.

 *Schoolwide Programs*

As part of a “well-rounded education,” the arts can be included in plans for schoolwide improvement programs. Depending on the results of a school’s needs assessment, that could mean arts courses that expand the curriculum or co-curricular arts programs that engage students and can strengthen school climate and culture.

*Targeted Assistance Schools*

Unlike previous versions of federal education law, ESSA opens the door for targeted assistance schools to use the arts to help specific groups of students meet academic standards. Potential arts-based strategies include arts courses for targeted students during the school day, an afterschool “makers” program integrating the arts into STEM learning, or a summer arts program.

*District Title Funds*

Under ESSA, districts can now use Title funds to:

* provide arts educators with professional development, as well as develop programs using arts-based techniques or arts-integrated strategies to build the capacity of teachers.
* support well-rounded education opportunities based in the arts, such as arts-integration programs
* invest in extended-day 21st Century Community Learning Centers that feature arts programming

Ask your district staff for more information.

**We know finding funding for the arts can be difficult. We’re here to help.**

**If you have questions about Title funding for arts education, please contact Programs Director Kristi Riedel at** **kristi@ya-or.org** **or (503) 225-5900 x226.**