



The Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE) has prepared this summary of opportunities for including the arts education (dance, drama/theatre, music, and visual art) in Ohio’s State Education Agency (SEA) Consolidated State Plan to implement the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*.

The OAAE believes that it is very important that our SEA specifically includes and acknowledges the value of arts education in Ohio’s ESSA Plan in order to support LEAs throughout the state looking to address ESSA-related objectives. Ohio’s ESSA Plan should encourage LEAs to be innovative and creative as they develop strategies for reaching and educating students, and should provide examples and support for LEAs to engage the arts to build well-rounded education programs that prepare students for continuing their education, careers, and citizenship.

Measure of School Quality and Student Success - Title I, Part A, Subpart 1, Section 1005

Student access to and participation in the arts should be included as viable factors in measuring school climate, school attendance, and student and educator engagement. Ohio already collects via EMIS annual data regarding number of arts courses offered, number of licensed arts teachers, number of students enrolled, and other data per each of the major arts disciplines.

Additional data could be collected through surveys and staff reporting about the number of parents who attend arts-related school events, and the number of volunteers who support school arts education programs.

In addition, an online “dashboard” that tracks student access and participation in the arts in Ohio’s schools and districts will soon be launched as Ohio participates in the National Arts Education Data Project. Based on this data, an arts-related component in Ohio’s accountability system could demonstrate completion of advanced coursework or postsecondary readiness, by looking at the percentage of high school students that graduate with three or more credits in the arts compared with their ACT/SAT scores.

Well-Rounded Education - Title I, Part A, Subpart 1, Section 1006

An LEA’s Title I plan must describe “...how the local educational agency will monitor students’ progress in meeting the challenging State academic standards by (A) developing and implementing a well-rounded program of instruction to meet the academic needs of all students.”

The arts and music are included in the definition of well-rounded education (Title VIII 8002

Definitions (52)), so it is reasonable to expect LEAs to include in their plans student access and participation in the arts, and how courses in the arts align with Ohio's academic content standards or similar rigorous standards.

Schoolwide Programs Title I, Part A, Subpart 1, Section 1008 and Targeted Assistance Schools - Title I, Part A, Subpart 1 Section 1009

LEAs must develop comprehensive and research-based plans for schools identified for *Comprehensive Support and Improvement* and *Targeted Support and Improvement* and, as part of a well-rounded education, these plans can include engaging students in the arts.

The arts should be included in Ohio's ESSA Plan among options LEAs are encouraged to explore to reach students to improve student achievement.

Parent and Family Engagement - Title I

Title I, Part A, Subpart 1, Section 1006

LEAs must also provide parents and families of English language learners information about how they can support their children in learning within the well-rounded education subjects.

Title I, Part A, Subpart 1, Section 1008.

LEAs must also ensure the effective engagement of community stakeholders in needs assessments and in the development of state implementation plans and policies,

Title I, Part A, Subpart 1, Section 1010

LEAs must establish, implement, and annually review with parents and other stakeholders a policy for engaging families in the school to improve student achievement.

Arts education-related school events should be included in Ohio's ESSA Plan among options LEAs are encouraged to pursue to develop parent engagement and to measure and evaluate parent attendance and participation in school events.

LEAs should be encouraged to reach out to all stakeholders, including arts education advocates.

Innovative Assessment and Accountability - Title I, Part B, Section 1201 ; Other Assessment Activities – Title I, Part B, Section 1201

Ohio can use federal funding for the continued improvement or refinement of the assessments – including assessments in the arts.

Ohio should explore applying to the USDOE to pilot a new system of state assessments, and consider how assessments in the arts could include performance-based tasks similar to NAEP assessments.

There also might be an opportunity to include in Ohio’s ESSA Plan what has been learned through *OAAE’s Straight A Fund*-supported arts assessment project (the Ohio Arts Assessment Collaborative), which is breaking new ground in arts assessment implementation and arts assessment literacy training for teachers.

Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants – Title IV, 4101 Part A,

The ODE is required to submit a plan to the USDOE describing how it would use funds for state level activities, award grants to LEAs, review existing resources and programs, and coordinate with existing resources.

At least 20 percent of the grant at a district level must be used to support a well-rounded education. Arts-based strategies to support student success through the promotion of constructive student engagement, problem-solving, and conflict resolution should be included among the options listed in the state plan.

Overall, the OAAE is recommending that Ohio’s ESSA Plan include specific examples and encouragement for LEAs to engage arts education as a strategy for improving the conditions for student learning and student achievement in their schools. Implementation may take many forms at the local level, but it is essential that LEAs can point to specific support for arts education in the state plan.