

ESSA Creates Opportunities for Creative Teaching & Learning

Most states have included music and the arts as part of their focus in the ESSA goal for providing students with a well-rounded education. Here are “big picture” ideas to consider as you work with colleagues to optimize ESSA opportunities and realize your vision for growth and transformation.



1 Ask yourself and your team members these essential questions:

- What kinds of learning experiences do we want for our students, so they benefit from a well-rounded learning environment?
- Are we providing learning opportunities that reach diverse learners?
- How can arts-based learning drive curriculum goals and social and emotional development?
- What are the paths to accomplish these goals, and who should we collaborate with?
- How will creative school leadership and innovative teaching help us achieve these goals?

2 Make your thinking visible

Use thinking maps and other visualization tools to collaborate and express your thoughts about how to develop programs and approaches that will use ESSA funding effectively in your learning environment.



3 Explore a kaleidoscope of options

Explore exciting options for integrating art-rich learning activities and experiences into your instructional programs. You can consider all kinds of strategies and approaches including:

- Integrating art activities and experiences into before- and after-school programs
- Establishing an arts-focused charter or magnet school program
- Moving from STEM to STEAM
- Integrating hands-on project based-learning strategically into core curriculum and instructional materials
- Using art to strengthen family engagement activities and programs
- Offering professional development focused on building creative school culture and increasing teacher confidence and skills in innovative teaching
- Leveraging art activities and experiences to support English-language learners



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4 Know your funding opportunities

- **Title I** can be used to create arts-based afterschool, summer enrichment, student engagement, school culture, and parent involvement programs.
- **Title II** can be used to further teacher development in arts integration, arts assessment, or arts education.
- **Title III** can support English language acquisition using art as a universal language.
- **Title IV-A** states that all students are entitled to a well-rounded education and fostering a safe, supportive learning environment. This encompasses all 17 content areas, including the arts.
- **Title IV** 21st Century Schools includes the new program Assistance for Arts Education. The program promotes arts education for disadvantaged students through PD for teachers, development of arts-based education programming, and activities that strengthen partnerships among LEAs, communities, and national centers for the arts

5 Build sustainable practices

- Go big! Create school- and district-wide creative leadership teams to coach teachers and collaborate with administrators to improve school culture and outcomes.
- Invest in sustained professional learning, train-the-trainer models and coaching to help teachers tap and apply creativity in their instructional practice.
- Support these teams with innovative materials and opportunities to collaborate across teams and with colleagues around the country through online communities.



6 Use curriculum as your launch pad by enhancing what you already have

- Art integration can enrich project- and inquiry-based learning in core curriculum areas by giving students many paths to express their thinking and learning.
- Link visual and language literacy activities together to boost comprehension and deepen understanding.
- Explain and explore math concepts visually to boost numeracy and make read-world connections.
- Focus on creativity's connection to science and make discovery visual through imagery, diagramming, and color.
- Share historical events, cultural discoveries and global awareness through art experiences in social studies.
- Use professional development to help teachers build their own creativity, capacity, and confidence in using art to deepen learning across the curriculum.

7 Partner with creatED by Crayola

Looking for strategic programs and solutions to support your ESSA plans and goals?

Partner with Crayola's creatED team to develop options and opportunities for your leadership teams, teachers, students, and families.

Learn more at [crayola.com/creatED](https://www.crayola.com/creatED) or call for a PD Preview or program samples at 800.291.6020



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