

Title IV, Part A

Well-Rounded Education: The Arts

Well Rounded Education: Title IV, Part A

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains specific language that allows school districts to utilize Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV, Part A) for programs and activities that support student access to a well-rounded education. The purpose of a well-rounded education is to provide an enriched curriculum and education experiences to all students. Programs and activities carried out under Title IV, Part A must be coordinated with other school and community-based services and may be conducted in partnership with institutions of higher education and other entities.

The Arts as a Part of a Well-Rounded Education

School districts may use Title IV, Part A funds to implement or expand programs and activities that use the arts as tools to support student success through the promotion of constructive student engagement, problem solving, and conflict resolution. The arts are core subjects at both the state and federal levels. **Washington defines the arts as the unique five disciplines of dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts.** The arts teach to the whole child, engage all learning styles, and lead to the development of powerful learning habits that include such essential 21st Century Skills as creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking. The arts also provide students with keys to understanding the world around them and an array of strategies for learning, interpreting, and expressing their thoughts. Research shows that students with a strong background in the arts outperform their peers who have little or no access to the arts. These gains include higher test scores and graduations rates. Also, students with more arts access are less likely to be suspended or drop out and are more likely to attend and graduate from college.

Examples of Uses of Title IV, Part A Funding for the Arts

- Purchase curriculum to support the arts and arts integration.
- Hire new staff or dedicate additional time for existing staff.
- Add new enrichment activities – by connecting with community volunteers or hiring additional staff and purchasing supplies – as part of expanded learning opportunities.
- Contract with outside providers to bring training to the district.
- Contract with an arts organization to provide student learning opportunities.
- Provide registration for student competitions.
- Purchase music, costumes, copyright permission.
- Pay the registration, travel costs, and/or substitute reimbursement for staff to attend targeted professional learning activities that will help them incorporate the arts into different content areas.



How to Access Funds

Title IV, Part A funds are allocated to each school district. Though the level of funding is based on that district's Title I allocation from the prior year, Title IV-A funds can be used for activities that support all students in all schools. Schools and students **do not** need to be Title I eligible to receive services or benefit from activities. School staff or other community stakeholders who are interested in how to access Title IV, Part A for the Arts should begin by contacting the individual in the school district with responsibility for administering federal programs. Things to consider:

- The level of Title IV, Part A funding available for the district.
- Whether proposed activities address a need identified through the district needs assessment process and/or stakeholder engagement.
- Title IV, Part A funds are to be supplemental and not supplant existing state or local funds.
- Each district submits its request for the funds through the OSPI grants system, [iGrants](#), using Form Package 211.

For assistance with the program planning process, access: [OSPI Program Planning Guide](#).

Additional Resources

The Arts are part of the required core curriculum in Washington – [RCW 28A.150.210](#)
Washington graduation requirements include 2 credits for the Arts – [www.sbe.wa.gov](#)

Arts K-12 Learning Standards

- [The Arts Learning Standards](#)
- [Media Arts](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Theatre](#)
- [Visual Arts](#)

Additional Resources

For more information on the Arts in education:

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[K-12 Arts](#)

For general questions and information about how school districts can apply for Title IV, Part A funds:

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