



Iowa Alliance for Arts Education

*"Advancing the Heart of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills"*

## Iowa ESSA Plan: Fine Arts Components

Iowa's implementation of ESSA offers additional opportunities for LEAs to consider and further student opportunities to obtain a well-rounded education. The Department, through its implementation, guidance and technical assistance for all titles and grant programs, intends to support LEAs to creatively leverage and coordinate well-rounded educational opportunities, within parameters offered by the statute, in ways that best support local district needs. Examples of critical components of a well-rounded education that the Department requires include Physical Education/Health, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, World Language, School Library Programs, Talented and Gifted Education Programs, Early Childhood Education Programs, Counseling, and Fine Arts Programs. In these areas, the Department will actively work with state-level professional organizations to create exemplars of how these disciplines can work effectively to encourage a well-rounded education and promote high levels of achievement for all learners in challenging learning standards. Examples of state-level professional organizations include, but are not limited to: the Iowa Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD), the Iowa School Nurse Organization (ISNO), the Iowa Talented and Gifted Association (ITAG), the Iowa Alliance for the Arts Education (IAAE), the Iowa School Counselors Association (ISCA), the Governor's STEM Council, the Iowa Association of Career and Technical Education (IACTE), the Iowa Association of School Librarians (IASL), the Iowa Council for the Social Studies, the Iowa World Language Association (IWLA), Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC), and the Council for Exceptional Children, Division for Early Childhood Iowa Chapter, (CEC-DEC). The Department will also partner with state-level professional organizations to create a clearinghouse of evidence-based strategies in these areas/disciplines that districts might incorporate into various components of their ESSA plans to meet local context and needs. This clearinghouse will be web-based and will serve as part of the technical assistance offered by the Department to LEAs. In addition, the Department will continue to develop and support evidence-based content across Iowa Required Standards accessible through [iowacore.gov](http://iowacore.gov).

Iowa ESSA Plan:

Support for IAAE Mentoring Program

Collaboration with IAAE to create and collect exemplars of how fine arts promote levels of high achievement

The Department supports Iowa Code 256.34, which established a fine arts beginning teacher mentoring program, with membership across six state fine arts organizations representing kindergarten through grade twelve, in the areas of general music, choral music, instrumental music, visual arts, and drama and theater arts. The program provides: (1) Activities and consultation in support of beginning fine arts teachers, (2) Coordination of retired and currently employed experienced fine arts mentor educators with beginning fine arts educators, and (3) Materials and advice specifically designed to prepare beginning fine arts teachers for success in the fine arts classroom and to prepare kindergarten through grade twelve students for school district fine arts performances and festivals. Further, the Department has developed fine arts standards that are on schedule for adoption in the 2017-2018 year. The Department will actively collaborate with state-level organizations such as the Iowa Alliance for the Arts Education to create and disseminate exemplars of how fine arts can promote high levels of achievement across all students, as well as identify and disseminate evidence-based practices in fine arts .