



## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER)

### **CAN BE USED FOR ARTS EDUCATION!**

With so many educational priorities after over a year of teaching and learning in virtual and hybrid formats *WHY* using these funds for the arts can help your students engage with school and *HOW* you might approach your school or district administration.

#### *Studies on the value of arts education:*

- The arts engage students in learning. A [recent study](#) in the Boston Public Schools participation in arts classes translated to nine additional days of instruction.
- Educators need a holistic approach to addressing the pandemic's impact on students and [the arts are a part of a well-rounded education](#).
- The [arts build student's social emotional competencies](#), a key area that schools are addressing moving out of the pandemic.

The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Relief fund (ESSER) provides new and flexible opportunities for supporting visual and performing arts education programs in Title I schools for the next three years. For programs not in Title I districts, a separate Department of Education fund, Title IV-A, is available to all defined well-rounded subject areas (including ALL ART CONTENT AREAS) included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

#### **Key Points**

1. There are 15 allowable spending areas in ESSER and funds can be used for equipment, software, teaching artists, private instructors, section coaches, directors, choreographers, and much more. Ask your friends what they have requested.
2. **Think big!** There are substantial sums of funding going to schools. There is \$126 billion in the 3rd round of ESSER dollars (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) that may be applied to the needs of visual and performing arts programs and their students.
3. Music educators have developed [a worksheet](#) that can be downloaded and used to calculate your funding request. Dance, theatre and visual art educators may find the categories helpful as well.
4. Talk to your school administration about how ESSER funding is being used and suggest ideas for your visual and performing arts programs.

Each of the National Visual and Performing Arts National Associations have additional information on what this funding can be used for and suggestions on how to access the funding. For more information:

[Educational Theatre Association](#)    [National Art Education Association](#) Upcoming Town Hall Conversation  
[National Association for Music Education](#) ESSER Funding Toolkit