

Steps to Access Title IV, Part A Federal Funds for Music Education

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes an opportunity for school districts to apply for funds to meet the mandate of ESSA—that all public-school K-12 students have access to a well-rounded education. Music and arts are designated as “well-rounded subjects” within ESSA. The steps below should be taken in collaboration with either the school or school district to access federal funds available via Title IV, Part A to advance music education in the curriculum.

Step 1—Needs Assessment and Application Review

School districts are required to complete a needs assessment as part of the Title IV, Part A application. Meet with a music educator to determine the most effective path. Identify the district level staff person that manages federal funds and have a collective conversation about the need and use of these funds. Community stakeholder engagement is also a requirement of ESSA so involvement of community members is an asset to the application process. Areas to explore in your needs assessment:

- Additional Music Courses (adding a piano or guitar class)
- Content-Area-Specific Professional Development
- Curriculum Materials
- General Music Supplies/Textbooks
- Music Related Field Trips
- Music Technology (computers, tablets, software)
- Musical Instruments
- Performance Space Upgrades
- Sheet Music

Step 2—Apply for Funding

School districts are required to complete a consolidated application describing the need and proposed use of supplemental funds available via Title IV, Part A. Review state Department of Education website or discuss the timeline with those in your school district handling federal funding for available information and application guidelines.

Step 3—Stay in the Process

The process will continue each year as long as the terms outlined in ESSA remains the federal education law and Congress appropriates funds for Title IV, Part A. Even if you don't receive funds for your program this year, stay involved in the process and apply for funds in subsequent years. What is learned along the way will contribute to local advocacy for music education.

Additional resources:

- NAMM's SupportMusic Coalition on Coalitions State Advocacy Network
namm.org/issues-and-advocacy/support-music-coc
- NAfME Everything ESSA nafme.org/advocacy/essa