

# Welcome to Going to the Hill: Everything You Need to Get Ready

Take your theatre education advocacy  
directly to Washington.



**Virtual Capitol  
Hill Week**  
March 22-26

*Theatre*  
IN OUR  
**Schools**



[ArtsAreEducation.org](https://www.ArtsAreEducation.org)

# ARTS ARE EDUCATION



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# The ongoing concerns of arts education

- Budget shortfalls
- A focus on remediation
- Student, family, faculty trauma
- A continued need for PPE that is unique to the performing arts classroom

Find all the tools and resources at  
<https://www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/capitol-hill-week>



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# What is the purpose of Theatre Education Capitol Week?

- ✓ Sharing your theatre education stories on the impact of arts education during the pandemic
- ✓ Communicating theatre education's mission and legislative requests (asks)
- ✓ Increasing federal visibility or "footprint" of theatre education on Capitol Hill
- ✓ Building relationships between stakeholders & key decision-makers



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# How can theatre educators and students participate in Virtual Hill Month?

- ✓ Reach out to other members of your Thespian Chapter to create a state delegation
- ✓ Set Capitol Hill virtual meetings with the offices of your federal legislators
- ✓ Share your arts education advocacy story and ask with your local member of Congress via email, phone call, or your virtual meeting

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# Five steps to scheduling a meeting

- Do your homework on your legislators
- Choose your contact strategy
- Prepare an email/phone script
- Try again
- Share your Virtual Leave-Behind documents

# Scheduling Your Hill Meetings

## Start Scheduling Now!



[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)  
[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)



**Schedule meetings with Members of Congress representing your state.  
Take note if they belong to:**

- House Education and the Workforce Members
- Senate HELP Committee Members
- L-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Members (House and Senate)
- Congressional Arts Caucus/Senate Cultural Caucus

**Meetings with staff members are just as important!**

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# Your key scheduling tools

- ✓ Five Steps to Success: Making your Hill Appointments
- ✓ The EdTA Template Meeting Request Letter
- ✓ Senate/House Rep Informational Sheets

# From the template letter...

“Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. My colleagues and I are participating in the Educational Theatre Association Virtual Capitol Hill Week March 22-26, as part of Theatre in our Schools Month

We would like to share our concerns and interests regarding theatre and other arts education, including how money dedicated to education aid in the new COVID relief package can help support access to arts education for all students; Title IV, Title II and Title I appropriations in support of well-rounded subject areas, including the arts; and support for the Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act.

I am happy to meet with you via a zoom or other platform meeting, or to share my suggestions with you in writing. What works best for you?”



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# Some Federal Perspective



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# Post-Election Federal Considerations

New U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona

New Deputy Education Secretary – Nominee –Cindy Marten, currently Superintendent, San Diego USD

\$\$\$\$\$\$	Policy
Finishing FY21 Appropriations - DONE	President Biden's educational priorities in first 100 days?
Stimulus Relief for states and schools – started – more is needed	School opening guidance under a new administration – and support for music/performing arts?
Appropriations leaders – Senate and House	Senate HELP Committee Chair – Senator Patty Murray, Washington
Narrower majority in the House and Senate – impacting how bills move? Reconciliation processes	

# ***COVID Relief Packages and Education Funding***

Four COVID-19 relief packages passed by Congress provided **\$68 billion** in K-12 education funding:

Funding has been distributed through the **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)**. This program distributes funds to states based on their Title I, Part A funding.

**An additional \$7 billion distributed through the Emergency Education Relief Grants to Governors:** A portion of the funds must be distributed to private schools. The remaining have been given to states based on a its population of 5- through 24-year-olds and its number of Title I students. Governors can use these funds to support early learning, k–12 education, and higher education programs

Emergency education funding allocated for K-12 education during the Great Recession of 2009 was **over \$80 billion**. Schools did not need to account for mitigation of the coronavirus and schools reopening.



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# The new COVID Relief Bill

- \$130 billion directly for schools K-12

Additional \$5 billion discretionary funding for education - Governors

- \$40 billion for higher education
- \$350 billion to states and localities to shore up budgets and support pandemic relief work and front-line workers
- \$4 billion in dedicated funding to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) E-Rate program to address the homework gap.



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# Education Funding Relief for Public Schools

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an extremely difficult period for education in the United States. Schools have never faced the challenges that have come with the shutdown of schools while trying to endure an economic crisis that threatens significant school cuts across the country:

- According to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), state budget shortfalls expected from COVID-19's economic fallout will total a cumulative \$615 billion over state fiscal years 2020-2022.
- The unequal opportunity of the “homework gap” experienced by approximately 12 million students who continue to lack home internet access, has had an even greater impact during the pandemic
- Students will soon return to school increasingly in need of environments which support their social and emotional development.



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# ESSA - Well-Rounded Funding – FY 21

Program	<b>ARTS ARE EDUCATION</b>	FY19 Enacted	FY20 Enacted	FY21 Enacted
Title IV, Part A	\$1.6 billion	\$1.17 billion	\$1.21 billion	<b>\$1.22 billion</b>
Title I, Part A	Awaiting President's Budget	\$15.86 Billion	\$16.31 billion	<b>\$16.54 billion</b>
Title II, Part A	\$2.29 billion	\$2.1 billion	\$2.13 billion	<b>\$2.14 billion</b>

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# Rebuild & Reopen America's Schools Act

The Rebuild & Reopen America's Schools Act would invest \$100 billion toward physical and digital infrastructure needs in schools. The bill would:

- Create a \$70 billion grant program and \$30 billion tax credit bond program targeted at high-poverty schools with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff.
- For FY2022, priority given to infrastructure to re-open schools.
- Develop a comprehensive national database on the condition of public school facilities. This currently does not exist.
- Expand access to high-speed broadband to ensure that public schools have the reliable and high-speed Internet access they need for digital learning.
- ***Arts Facilities included!***

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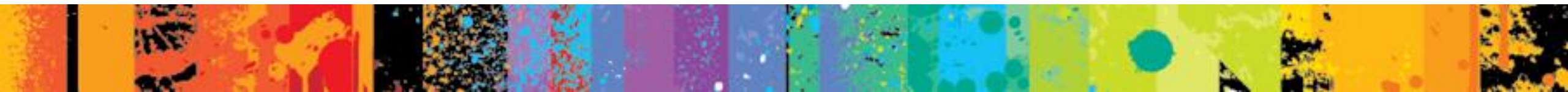
# The EdTA “Asks”



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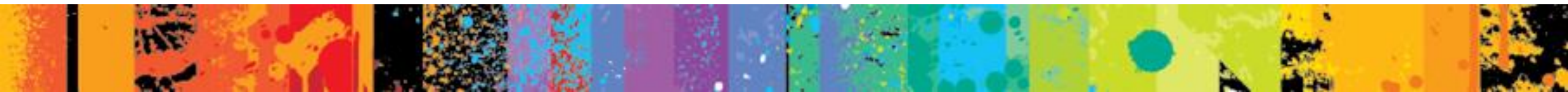
## EDTA FY2022 APPROPRIATIONS

- ✓ Support access to theatre education by appropriating \$1.6 billion to fully fund Title IV, Part A.
- ✓ Support access to theatre education for the most disadvantaged students by fully funding Title I, Part A programs, both school-wide and targeted.
- ✓ Support professional development for theatre educators by appropriating \$2.295 billion for Title II, Part A and \$35 million for Title IV, Part F.



## EDTA FY2022 SUPPORT REQUESTS

- ✓ Congress should pass the Rebuild & Reopen America Schools Act in time for 2022 implementation.
- ✓ The National Assessment Governing Board should immediately reinstate the previously scheduled arts, foreign language, geography, and economics assessments to the NAEP calendar and Congress should appropriate additional funds to the National Center for Education Statistics for NAEP assessments in the arts, foreign language, geography and economics during the FY2022 budgeting process.
- ✓ Congress should urge the Federal Communication Commission to restore wireless microphone users access to a reliable geo-location database and preserve education, nonprofit performing arts, and media organizations financial investment in technical equipment.



# Your meeting “Leave Behind” documents

- ✓ EdTA FY22 Appropriation & Support Request two-pager
- ✓ Quick Facts about Theatre Education sheet
- ✓ Theatre in Our Schools flyer
- ✓ EdTA Mission & Goals sheet
- ✓ Arts ARE Education Informational two-pager

# About your scheduled meetings

- ✓ Do your homework beforehand!
- ✓ Be prepared to adapt
- ✓ Share the EdTA “Leave Behind” documents
- ✓ Emphasize that you are available as an “expert” theatre ed resource
- ✓ Follow up with a “thank you” email
- ✓ **SHARE YOUR THEATRE STORIES!**

**A Special Opportunity:  
Arts Education-Social Emotional Learning Congressional Briefing  
March 24, 3 p.m .EDT**

U.S. Senator Jon Tester, Montana

Bob Morrison (Moderator), Founder, Quadrant Research

Dr. Scott Edgar, Associate Professor of Music, Chair of Music, Lake Forest College; Director, The Center for Arts Education and Social Emotional Learning

Dr. Pamela Randall-Gardner, Senior Staff Advisor, Collaborating Initiative, CASEL

Dr. Yorel Lashley, Director of Arts in the Office of Professional Learning and Community Education at UW–Madison’s School of Education

Darlene Machacon, TK-6th Grade Elementary Music Educator, Chorus Director, Orange County



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# Questions



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