

## EDTA FY 2022 Appropriations Requests

**Title IV, Part A** of the federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), ensures that access to arts education is included as part of a “Well-Rounded Education” and eligible for funding. Congress approved \$1.22 billion for the fund in FY2021. Under Title IV, Part A, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants clearly states support the nation’s schools through a “Well-Rounded Education.” As such, this new formula-funded block grant may be used to improve access to theatre education, and in turn, to support not only student success, but also the promotion of constructive student engagement, problem solving, and conflict resolution. In addition, the funds may be used to offer a broad range of enriched educational experiences, such as providing access to theatre education to underrepresented, disadvantaged, and minority student populations.

- **Support access to theatre education by appropriating \$1.6 billion to fully fund Title IV, Part A**

**Title I, Part A** ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality education through the distribution of targeted resources that can help close the achievement gap between minority and nonminority students and by including enriched and accelerated educational programs in all well-rounded subject areas—including theatre. Congress approved \$16.5 billion for the fund in FY2021.

- **Support access to theatre education for the most disadvantaged students by fully funding Title I, Part A programs, both school-wide and targeted.**

**Title II, Part A & Title IV, Parts A and F** support professional development for theatre educators, under ESSA’s definition of well-rounded subject areas (Title I, Part A funds may also be used for professional development). Appropriate quality professional development is key to successful educator practice, even more so today in the “new normal” of education. Congress approved \$2.13 billion for Title II, Part A (formerly the Teacher Quality Program) in FY21, and \$30 billion for Title IV, Part F (formerly the Assistance for Arts Education Program).

- **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 FY 2022 Support Requests

**The Rebuild America 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.
  - ✓ Give priority in FY2022 to building infrastructure to re-open schools.
  - ✓ Develop a comprehensive national database on the condition of public school facilities—including performance spaces, such as theatres and auditoriums.
  - ✓ Expand access to high-speed broadband to ensure that public schools have the reliable and high-speed Internet access they need for digital learning.
- **EdTA urges Congress to pass the Rebuild America Schools Act in time for 2022 implementation.**

**The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)** is the Department of Education's "report card," annually providing detailed information on student achievement in individual subject areas. In 2019, the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) removed previously scheduled arts, foreign language, geography, and economics assessments from the NAEP calendar. In doing so, NAGB dismantled the only national assessments in the arts, limiting the nation's ability to measure rigor in content areas recognized as part of a well-rounded education in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

NAEP assessments provide an opportunity to shine light on what students have learned in the subjects deemed important for American students to study. The 2016 Arts NAEP suggested inequities in arts education with significant differences in scoring across ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender. The NAEP Arts Assessment data has been used by policymakers and advocates alike to maintain and expand access to arts education.

- **EdTA requests that the NAGB immediately reinstate the previously scheduled arts, foreign language, geography and economics assessments to the NAEP calendar and for Congress to 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.**

**Wireless microphones** are an important component of educational theatre programs. Educational theatre, like other users, has relied on this equipment operating within the "white space" radio frequencies between broadcast channels of the television band. In 2015, the FCC eliminated the ability of unlicensed wireless microphones to access the geo-location database created to protect wireless microphones from white space devices. The Commission also began laying out the process by which wireless microphones will be moved to new white space following the spectrum auction of 2016. The two safe-haven channels that had previously been set aside for wireless microphones have been eliminated.

- ✓ **The Educational Theatre Association asks Congress to 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.**