

The Illinois ESSA Arts Indicator

Understanding & Leveraging the New Indicator

2022 Illinois Music Education Conference

January 27, 2022

Presenters

Josh Kaufmann
Senior Executive Director,
Illinois & Regional Impact
Teach Plus



Jonathan VanderBrug
Deputy Director,
Civic Engagement
Arts Alliance Illinois



We're looking forward to today's session!

Goals of Today's Session

1. *ESSA* – Understand Illinois' school accountability system
2. *Arts* – Learn the unique place of the arts in that system
3. *Indicator* – Learn how the arts will impact school ratings
4. *Advocacy* – Draw lessons & inspiration from how arts educators won the indicator
5. *Next Steps* – Strategize how to leverage the indicator to advance music education





The Big News:

Illinois is one of only two states with a distinct, weighted ESSA arts indicator and the *only* state applying it to elementary as well as high schools.

- What does this mean?
- How can we use it to advance music education?

Let's find out!....



Illinois' School Accountability System

ESSA!

Every Students Succeeds Act

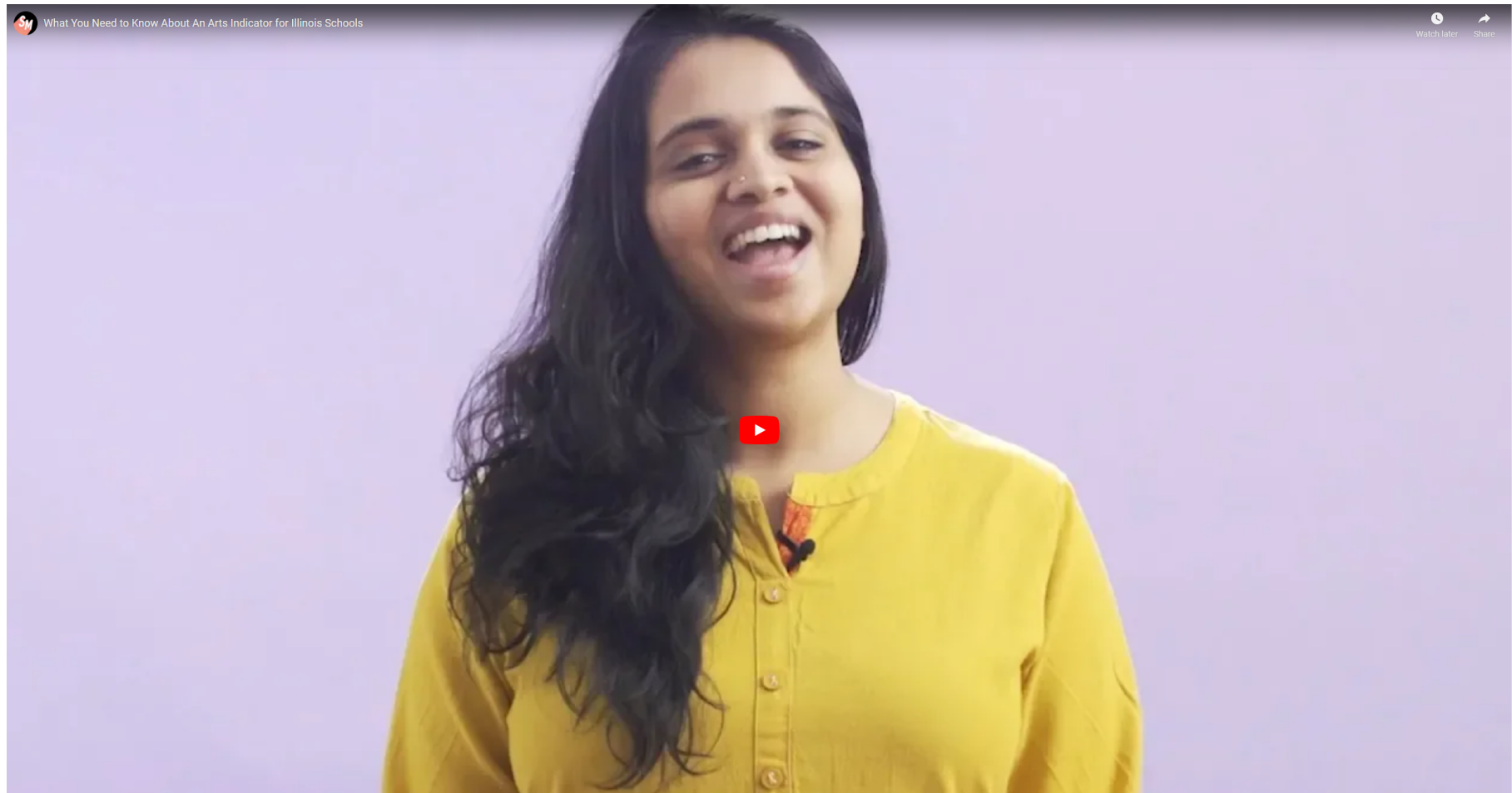
Enacted 2015. Newest version of ESEA. Replaced NCLB.
Gives states more flexibility in determining school accountability & support

Every state has a statewide system that gives schools a score based on indicators



In Illinois' system, the arts are an indicator of school quality!

State Matters: ESSA & Illinois' New Arts Indicator



The Illinois ESSA Arts Indicator

Summary: Every school will receive 0-5 points (%), of 100 total, based on the extent and quality of the arts learning they offer.

Importance: The arts are now officially in the game for the first time in an Illinois statewide school accountability system.

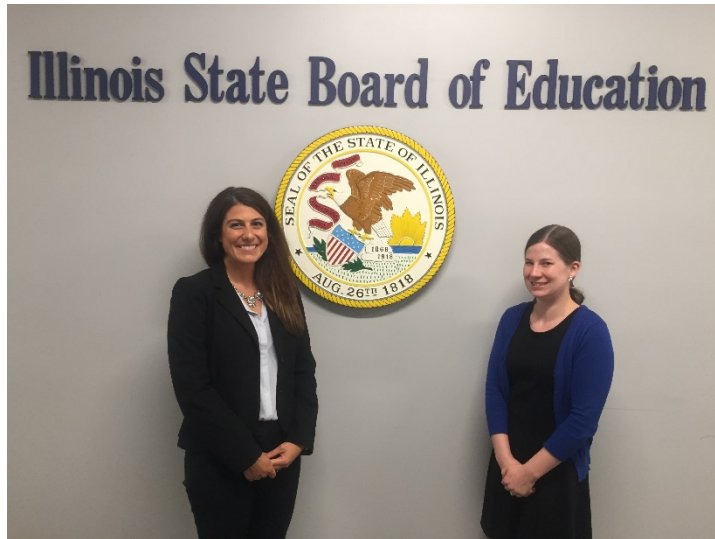
The arts indicator:

- ✓ Upholds the *arts as essential* to student success
- ✓ Opens the door to potential *new funding & support*
- ✓ Powerful, consequential *incentive* for schools to increase quality arts learning



Winning the Indicator

ADVOCACY!



- 4 years & 2 administrations (Republican & Democrat)
- 3 separate public comment periods
- >5,500 comments in support of the arts indicator, more than for all other indicators combined!
- From 1 of 40+ possible school quality indicators, down to 1 of only 5
- Indicator initially approved at 0%, pending a defined measure. (“0 is better than nothing.”)

Table 2: Support for Additional Indicators of School Quality	% of Respondents who Strongly Support or Somewhat Support the Indicator
Academic Indicators	
% of Students with Successful Completion of Student Portfolio	39.6%
Combined Lexile reading level	52.4%
Student Dropout Rates	56.9%
Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) readiness indicator	42.9%
"Ready to Learn" K-2 academic indicator (to be developed)	44.0%
Longitudinal data on current and former English Learners (such as access to AP/IB, graduation rates, etc.)	49.1%
School Climate Indicators	
% of students suspended or expelled	42.3%
Safe environments (as measured on the 5Essentials survey)	70.2%
% of students with access to physical activities such as sports or recess	64.2%
% of students who participate in extracurricular activities	47.3%
5Essentials Survey (Composite Score)	53.6%
Post-Secondary Readiness Indicators	
% of Freshmen on track at end of 9th grade	67.8%
% of students with postsecondary plan	52.2%
% of students earning postsecondary credentials (AP/IB/CTE/Dual Credit)	46.1%
% of students enrolling in college	50.0%
% of students who are College/career/workforce ready (also see Part II)	73.6%
Non-Academic Factors	
% of students with access to arts and enrichment coursework	66.8%
% of students completing arts and enrichment coursework	56.2%
% of students with chronic absenteeism	51.6%
% of students earning the State Seal of Biliteracy	25.4%

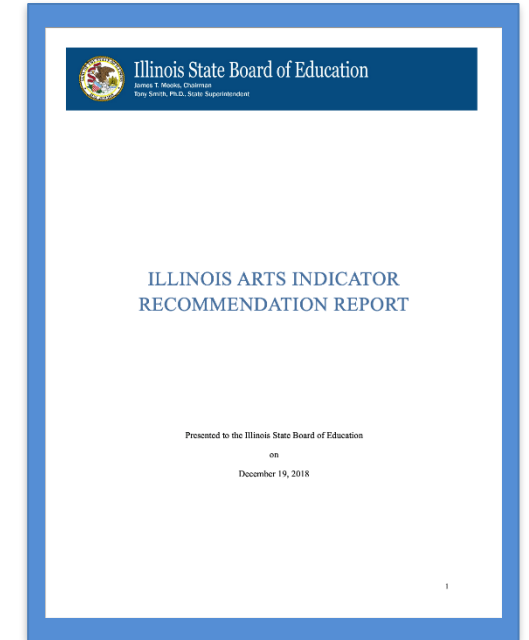
Teacher Voice

In a survey conducted by Teach Plus Illinois, **over 2/3** of teachers, from across all disciplines, expressed support for the arts as a school quality indicator, putting the arts in the survey's Top 5.

Defining the Indicator

ILLINOIS ARTS INDICATOR WORK GROUP

- 27 members, diverse, statewide
- Conducted the most extensive analysis of Illinois statewide arts education data ever! (Ingenuity)
- Explored 42 possible measures for the arts indicator
- Developed an innovative composite measure
- ISBE unanimously approved 3/20 (& reaffirmed 1/22)



The Indicator's Measure

5% weight
(of 100 total)

3 sub-measures

Participation & quality
data already collected.
No additional
reporting needed.

Participation = 3% (Students enrolled in arts coursework)

students enrolled \geq 1 arts courses

of students

Quality = 2% (Qualifications of teachers)

students enrolled \geq 1 arts courses
taught by arts endorsed teacher

students enrolled \geq 1 arts courses

Student Voice = 0% (Pending further study / development)

Student survey, TBD

Next Steps for the Arts Indicator



- *Review by TAC*, using three years of new data ('22, 23, 24), ISBE's standard practice for testing new indicators
- Pending the above, the arts indicator *will start in 2025*
- ISBE has delayed implementation of *all* meta indicators (CCR, P-2, 3-8, arts) by one year, until 2025.
- Gives schools time to prepare – w/ our *advocacy & support!*



Discussion

What challenges & opportunities is music education facing *today*, especially given COVID?

What new challenges & opportunities will music education likely face *in the coming years*?

How can we leverage the arts indicator now to address these challenges and opportunities?



Thanks, and feel free to contact us!

Jonathan VanderBrug
Deputy Director,
Civic Engagement
Arts Alliance Illinois
vanderbrug@artsalliance.org

Josh Kaufmann
Senior Executive Director,
Illinois & Regional Impact
Teach Plus
jkaufmann@teachplus.org



The arts are fundamental to preparing students for success in college, career, and life, and through its ESSA arts indicator, Illinois has taken a historic step toward quality arts learning for all K-12 Illinois students.

WHAT IS ESSA?

Enacted in 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaced No Child Left Behind and gives states more flexibility in how they design their system of school accountability and support. Under ESSA, states can look beyond just test scores and consider more holistic indicators of school quality and student success.

WHAT IS ILLINOIS' ESSA PLAN?

The Illinois State Plan for implementing ESSA established a new system to understand the performance and needs of schools. Under this new accountability system, schools receive points (%) based on weighted indicators. Examples include math and science proficiency, climate surveys, and chronic absenteeism.

WHAT IS THE ARTS INDICATOR?

Illinois' new accountability system also includes the arts as an indicator of school quality and student success. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approved the indicator in 2017, making Illinois one of just two states with a distinct arts indicator and the only state applying it to elementary *and* high schools.

HOW IS IT MEASURED AND WEIGHTED?

Arts Alliance Illinois and Ingenuity co-chaired the statewide Illinois Arts Indicator Work Group, which consisted of arts education organizations, teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders. The work group recommended that the indicator equal 5% of every school's score, and through a year of deliberations, developed a data-informed, innovative measure that considers student participation in arts courses (3%) and quality of instruction (2%). It also recommended that ISBE explore development of a student voice survey.

On March 18, 2020, ISBE voted unanimously to approve the arts indicator weight and measure recommended by the work group, following endorsement from State Superintendent Carmen Ayala.

WHEN WILL THE INDICATOR TAKE EFFECT?

Due to the COVID pandemic, ISBE is delaying implementation of all meta-indicators until 2025, including the arts indicator. ISBE requires that all new indicators be validated by three years of data before taking effect and will use 2022, 2023, and 2024 data to validate the arts indicator. This will also give schools time to prepare.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

With the arts indicator, Illinois has taken a historic step. The indicator affirms the arts as essential to student success and will incentivize schools to provide high-quality arts learning. It will also open the door to new support for arts education and lead to a greater data-based understanding of arts education in Illinois.