



Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Programs

Supporting Access to Music Education for All Students

Title I, Part A—Provides funds to school districts to help disadvantaged children achieve proficiency on challenging academic standards and improve the performance of low-achieving schools. An annual survey of arts educators found that Title I funds have been used to hire educators, renovate facilities, and purchase instructional materials.

- We request this program be funded at **\$18.68** billion in FY 2026.

Title IV, Part A—A flexible block grant program which supports activities in three broad areas: (1) Providing students with a well-rounded education; (2) supporting safe and healthy students; and (3) supporting the effective use of technology. Title IV-A funds have been used to enhance digital resources in the classroom, facilitate summer and after-school music programs, and purchase content to support curriculum creation.

- We request this program be funded at **\$1.6** billion in FY 2026.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) State Grant Program (Part B)—Provides special education services and support to 7.4 million eligible children with disabilities to ensure a free and appropriate public education. IDEA funds can be used for activities such as purchasing adaptive instruments or classroom supplies to remove barriers for students with disabilities in the music classroom.

- We request this program be funded at **\$16.6** billion in FY 2026.
- We also request that Congress explore pathways for the federal government to pay 40% of the average per pupil expenditure for special education.

Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers—A formula grant program that provides financial support to local communities for after-school, before-school, and summer learning programs serving students in low-performing schools. Funds are used to provide a broad array of additional services designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program, such as: drug and violence prevention programs; counseling programs; art, music, and recreation programs; technology education programs; and character education programs.

- We request this program be funded at **\$2.09** billion in FY 2026.

Supporting Music and the Arts

Assistance for Arts Education Program—Promotes arts education for all students, through activities such as professional development for arts educators; development and dissemination of accessible instructional materials; and community and national outreach activities that strengthen and expand partnerships among schools, local education agencies, and centers for the arts.

- We request this program be funded at **\$40** million in FY 2026.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)—Advances equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice in underserved populations. Through its grantmaking, the NEA provides direct learning grants to grow student access to the arts, professional development grants to bolster educators' skills in effectively teaching the arts, and collective impact grants to transform school communities by increasing access and engagement in the arts.

- We request this agency be funded at **\$209** million in FY 2026.

Federal Data Collection and Reporting—Comprehensive collection and reporting of arts education data at the federal level—including gaps in access, participation and quality—is vital to ensure that all young people have access to excellent arts learning opportunities. The National Core Arts Standards can serve as a foundation for creating reliable measures of what children know and are able to do in the arts, and 43 states have adopted or adapted these standards. Data collection in the arts, previously undertaken by the Institute for Education Sciences and the National Assessment of Educational Progress, must be immediately reinstated to improve access to and advancements in arts education.

Supporting an Experienced and Diverse Educator Workforce

Title II, Part A—Focuses on improving student academic achievement by bolstering skills and expertise of teachers, principals, and other educators and increasing the number of high-quality teachers and principals in schools. Title II funds have been used to provide content-specific professional development opportunities and receive training on instructional strategies to work with students of varying ability.

- We request this program be funded at **\$3** billion in FY 2026.

Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program—Designed to support comprehensive teacher preparation programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and minority-serving institutions.

- We request this program be funded at **\$30** million in FY 2026.

Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grant Program—Funds comprehensive educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education and teaching residency programs for individuals new to teaching.

- We request this program be funded at **\$1** billion in FY 2026.