



2017 Back-to-School Checklist for Arts Organizations

Use the checklist to connect with schools as they begin the school year.

- Mark your calendar for AEC's Regional Arts Education Day on October 9, 2017.
- Continue to learn about the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Monitor Pennsylvania's state plan and the role of the arts within it, including funding opportunities for districts to partner with arts organizations. The [PA Department of Education's ESSA website](#) will continue to be updated as the state's ESSA plan develops.
- Connect with schools in your area. Direct emails or phone calls to arts teachers are good places to begin. Most districts publish contact information in staff directories on their websites.
- Use the following questions as starting points in your conversations with teachers:
 - a. Is there a written curriculum in your content area? What's in the written curriculum?
 - b. How are students assessed in the arts?
 - c. Are there ways my organization can connect to the curriculum and/or assessment to support what you are doing in your content area?
 - d. What opportunities exist that may foster collaboration? How can we take advantage of those opportunities?
 - e. What barriers exist that may hinder collaboration? How can we work to minimize those barriers?
 - f. What opportunities for professional learning might we offer to enhance your skill sets?
 - g. Can you think of specific students who might be interested in out-of-school learning to support what they're learning with you?