



2017 Back-to-School Checklist for Teachers

Use the checklist to start your school year.

- Introduce yourself to new administrators in your building or district.
- Find out where to get supplies, what your budget is and how to access it, and other issues related to the materials and equipment available to you.
- Investigate any new district initiatives and find where they may connect to your content area.
- 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 the arts. The [PA Department of Education's ESSA website](#) will continue to be updated as the state's ESSA plan develops.
- Join or renew your membership in professional organizations: PA Art Educators Association; PA Music Educators Association; PA State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance; and/or national organizations like Educational Theatre Association. Once a member, investigate opportunities to volunteer for service and leadership roles.
- Investigate learning opportunities for the year and develop a personal learning plan. Start by marking your calendar for AEC's Regional Arts Education Day on October 9, 2017.
- Investigate learning opportunities through your professional organization(s) that might be available for free or at a reduced cost.
- Volunteer for district committees. Possibilities might include comprehensive planning, induction, and more.
- Seek out community resources that connect to your curriculum. Use the following questions as starting points in your conversations:
 - a. What current programs or services do you offer for teachers and students?
 - b. How can those programs or services connect to my content area?
 - c. Is there financial aid or other resources available to help me or my students take advantage of the opportunities?
 - d. Are there other ways I or my students can get involved?
- Encourage your students to seek out learning opportunities in the arts in the community to support their interest and learning outside of school.