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## TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY LAUNCHES ONLINE SURVEY FOR EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Education Agency (TEA) recently launched an online survey offering parents, taxpayers and the general public an avenue to provide input on the state's implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA, which is the new federal law governing K-12 education and replaces the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, returns a significant amount of decision-making on education policy to the states.

Commissioner of Education Mike Morath has stated, "We need input from all parts of our state to ensure that, under ESSA, all students in Texas can receive a high-quality education that prepares them for the future." The online ESSA survey, which will take less than ten minutes to complete, is available at the following link:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3003630/ESSA-Public-Input-Survey>.

The online survey provides an opportunity for arts advocates to share views on how the state should implement provisions of ESSA. In particular, question 3 provides an opportunity to share the importance of the arts as a part of the measure of school quality or school success. The survey period will run through Nov. 18, 2016. We encourage you to complete the survey and share with fellow arts supporters, educators, and parents.

### ABOUT THE TEXAS CULTURAL TRUST

The Texas Cultural Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to be the leading voice for the arts in education, advocacy, and economic impact in Texas, spotlighting the artistic excellence of our state. Programs of the Texas Cultural Trust include the biennial Texas Medal of Arts Awards, Texas Women for the Arts, the Texas Young Masters Program, the Arts & Digital Literacy Initiative, and the *Invest in the Arts. The Arts Perform* Advocacy Campaign, as well as support for programs of the Texas Commission on the Arts and other qualifying state agencies. For more information on TCT, please visit [www.txculturaltrust.org](http://www.txculturaltrust.org).

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