



**National Association  
for Music Education**



## **NAfME Advocacy Resources**

### **All Things ESSA**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), included for the first time a specific and separate enumeration of music as part of a “well-rounded education”. This historic victory for music education advocates allowed for previously unavailable federal funding stream to be used to support music education. ESSA was authorized through 2020, and technically, has expired. Congress has not indicated plans for reauthorization, so ESSA remains the law of the land.

- [NAfME’s How Funding Works – Title I \(FY23\)](#)
- [NAfME’s How Funding Works – Title II \(FY23\)](#)
- [Title IV-A Toolkit FAQ](#)
- [ESSA Implementation Toolkit](#)
- [NAfME’s Comprehensive Analysis of ESSA](#)

### **Advocacy Leadership Force (ALF)**

The NAfME Advocacy Leadership Force (ALF) is comprised of state advocacy chairs representing 43 state music education associations (MEAs). The ALF meets monthly to share ideas that help its members become more effective advocates in their states.

Through this group, state music education advocates discuss issues affecting music education at the state level and learn where to focus advocacy for education issues on the federal level.

- [Find your ALF representative](#)

### **Music Education Policy Roundtable**

The Music Education Policy Roundtable is a public policy coalition led by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) that advocates for a high-quality music education for all students. Consisting of music organizations, trade associations, and businesses, the Roundtable is unified under a single policy banner and works to achieve a consensus set of federal legislative recommendations aimed at ensuring the continued presence and expansion of high-quality music programs in America’s schools. The Roundtable believes that music education should be taught by certified music educators, delivering sequential, standards-based music education to **all** students across the nation, regardless of personal circumstance or background.

- [Music Education Policy Roundtable FY24 Legislative Agenda](#)

### **[Music In Our Schools Month® \(MIOSM\)](#)**

The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children – and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. MIOSM is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community, and to display the value that school music brings to students of all ages.

MIOSM and the events surrounding it are the ideal opportunities for increasing awareness of the benefits of high-quality music education programs in our nation's schools. NAFME hopes that teachers, students, and music supporters alike will find ways to join the celebration through creative activities and advocacy.

### **Opportunity to Learn Standards**

[These OTL Standards](#) represent considered guidance on the Curriculum and Scheduling, Staffing, Materials and Equipment, and Facilities that must be in place if the promise inherent in the 2014 Music Standards is to be realized, namely, that all students have the opportunity to achieve music literacy.

### **Curriculum, Standards, & Assessment Resources**

The Model Cornerstone Assessments (MCAs) provide an instructional and assessment framework into which teachers integrate their curriculum to help measure student learning. Each school program has a unique population and circumstances that guide curricular decisions.

### **Advocacy Resources**

- [Advocacy Inventory](#): This survey will help new advocates gauge their experience.
- [Local Advocacy Action Plan](#): This resource is intended to aid music educators and music education supporters as they seek to improve the overall condition of a music program.
- [RJR Band Newsletter](#)
- [Title I-A Guiding Language Request](#)
- [Civic Action Field Guide](#): This field guide was created by NAFME to help music educators and education stakeholders better understand the processes behind how public education is governed and funded, with an eye toward supporting high-quality music education in districts and at the state level across the nation. With the information in this document, you will be able to:
  - Understand how public education is governed and funded
  - Identify key elected officials in public education and their election cycles
  - Identify candidates and their stances on education issues
  - Register to vote

- Understand the well-rounded education programs found in Title I, Title II, and Title IV, and learn how to advocate for the availability of these funding streams to your music program under ESSA (the Every Student Succeeds Act)
- Contact your elected officials and advocate for music education