

Want to Be a Music Education Advocate? NAFME Wants YOU!

The National Association *for* Music Education (NAfME) is the national voice for music education. We work at the national, state, and local levels to educate elected officials and other decision-makers about the impact and importance of music education programs.

As we begin a new school year, we urge you, as parents and music education advocates, to join us and to help change the national conversation about music's vital role in delivering an outstanding education to all students.

Celebrate!

In December 2015, after years of failed negotiations, Congress finally passed a new version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now titled the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The passage of ESSA is an historic victory for music education advocates, because it includes for the first time a specific and separate mention of music as an important component of a well-rounded education.

You know music education in schools is important—and we can help you deliver that message

Wondering where to start? Getting involved is easy! Begin by advocating for your music program at school. Share information about the benefits of a quality music program with other teachers, parents, school district officials, as well as your local, state, and federal lawmakers.

Perhaps in the past you've helped rally members of the community to demonstrate support for your music program, be it through encouraging concert attendance, raising financial support for a trip or performance, or even attending a school board meeting. Build on that successful coalition-building effort. Even if your school's music program is strong, being proactive can help *keep* your music program strong! Regular communication and interaction with the community is essential for building and maintaining awareness of your school's music program.

It Doesn't Stop Here – Continue Advocating!

While many people already respect the importance of maintaining music education in today's schools, there are thousands of others who don't understand why it's necessary.

Today's educational culture places a high value on quantifying academic achievement. Gauging student progress and learning is important, but at the same time, we must recognize that the true mission of education lies in shaping the students *behind* the scores. We encourage you to visit NAFME's advocacy site, www.broaderminded.com, to read about ways to advocate that include both student achievement and the more intrinsic benefits of music education.

Stay up to date by visiting our advocacy page, nafme.org/take-action/, for ongoing national policy and advocacy updates. Be sure to also visit our Grassroots Action Center, bit.ly/NAfMEgrassroots, for ways you can be involved with the legislative process and support music education!

We look forward to adding your voice to our efforts. Thank you for helping to keep music alive in our schools!



nafme.org