



MUSIC EDUCATION
POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Fiscal Year 2017 Federal Appropriations Requests

Who We Are:

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) is among the world’s largest arts education organizations, representing over 60,000 music educators, students, and advocates across the nation. Our mission is to advance music education by promoting the understanding and making of music by all, regardless of circumstance and background. NAfME advocates at the federal, state, and local levels, and has supported music educators and students for more than a century.

The Music Education Policy Roundtable (MEPR) is a public policy coalition spearheaded by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). Consisting of 35 music education organizations, the Roundtable believes all children should have access to sequential and high-quality and in-school music programs.



Roundtable Federal Legislative Recommendations:

COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017: As the federal government continues to operate under a Continuing Resolution, Congress is set to engage in another round of appropriations discussions in April. In order to actualize the opportunities provided by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Congress must complete a full appropriations process for FY 2017, and not pass another Continuing Resolution. If another stopgap spending measure is applied to finish the remainder of the Fiscal Year, ESSA’s first year of implementation would be severely hampered as the funding levels would reflect amounts designated for programs under No Child Left Behind, as opposed to ESSA. As such, the Roundtable has developed several funding requests for FY 2017, which we offer for consideration, as the dialogue begins to take shape in April.

APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR ALL “WELL-ROUNDED” PROGRAMS: The inclusion of “music” as part of a “Well-Rounded Education” provides a significant number of opportunities for increasing access to music education for students at the state and local levels. The specific enumeration of music in statute further articulates music’s eligibility for Title I, Title II, and Title IV funding. In order to make these opportunities a reality for students, Congress must follow ESSA’s congressional intent, and ensure states, districts, charters, and local schools have the most flexibility to spend their federal dollars where needed. Robust funding for all well-rounded programs, including Title IV, Part A, must be a priority to protect this flexibility.

- **Support Access to Music Education for the Most Disadvantaged Students by Fully Funding Title I, Part A:** Title I, Part A programs, both school-wide and targeted, are now available to provide supplemental funds for a “Well-Rounded Education,” including music.

Funding History for Title I to LEAs (in millions)

FY 2016	House Bill (115 th)	Senate bill (115 th)	FY 2017 NAFME - Roundtable Request
\$14,909.00	\$15,359.80	\$15,359.80	\$15,359.80 (Authorized Level)

Under the new ESSA, the School Improvement Grants (SIG) were eliminated and states are now required to reserve 7 percent of Title I, Part A funds to support school improvement in the place of this elimination. In order to ensure school districts do not see a decrease in Title I, Part A allocations due to this reservation, we ask Congress to fully fund Title I, Part A at its authorized \$15.36 billion level, which is the combined total Title I, Part A and SIG program funding in FY16.

- **Support Professional Development for Music Educators by Fully Funding Title I, Part A, Title II, Part A and Title IV, Parts A and F:** These funds may be used to support professional development for music educators, as part of supporting a “Well-Rounded Education.”

Supporting Effective Instruction, Title II, Part A (formerly, Teacher Quality Program)

Funding History (in millions)

FY 2016	House Bill (115 th)	Senate bill (115 th)	FY 2017 NAFME - Roundtable Request
\$2,349.83	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$2,290.00 (Authorized Level)

Assistance for Arts Education (formerly, Arts in Education), Title IV, Part F

Funding History (in millions)

FY 2016	House Bill (115 th)	Senate bill (115 th)	FY 2017 NAFME - Roundtable Request
\$27.00	\$0.00	\$27.00	\$30.00

Music educators play an important role in enabling student success. Appropriate funding levels for these programs provide unique federal support for professional development for music educators and enhance the skills they need to provide a high-quality music education to our nation’s students, part of Congress’ vision of a “Well-Rounded Education.”

- **Support Access to Music Education as Part of a “Well-Rounded Education” by Fully Funding Title IV, Part A:** Under Title IV, Part A of ESSA, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants provides a new and clear intent to support our nation’s schools through a “Well-Rounded Education.” As such, this new formula-funded block grant may be used in part to improve access to music education, and in turn, to support not only student success, but also the promotion of constructive student engagement, problem solving, and conflict resolution. In addition, other funds may be utilized to offer a broad array of enriched educational experiences, such as providing music to underrepresented, disadvantaged, and minority student populations.

Funding History for Title IV, Part A [SSAE] (in millions)

ESSA Authorized Level	House Bill (115 th)	Senate bill (115 th)	FY 2017 NAFME - Roundtable Request
\$1,650.00	\$1,000.00	\$300.00	\$1,650.00 (Authorized Level)

By significantly underfunding this program, it undermines the greater flexibility that Congress had intended for states and districts, and would not allow schools to make meaningful investments in critical areas of need, such as school music programs. In addition, federal statute (ESSA, Title IV, Sec. 4105) indicates that no allocation made to a school district under Title IV, Part A may be less than \$10,000. If SSAE is underfunded, certain districts would see severe ratable reductions in their Title IV allocations due to other districts being prorated to meet the minimum \$10,000 award threshold.