



National Association
for Music Education



MUSIC EDUCATION
POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Fiscal Year 2018 Federal Appropriations Requests



Roundtable Federal Legislative Recommendations:

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.

- **Raise the Sequester Level Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD) Spending Caps:**
NafME and the Music Education Policy Roundtable call upon Congress to eliminate sequestration caps in order to improve the federal investment on education and allocate robust funding to key education initiatives from ESSA, including all “Well-Rounded Education” programs listed below.

Key-appropriators have recognized the inability to make the necessary federal investments in domestic programs under the current spending caps. Under the current spending proposals, funding for several key education programs, including Title IV-A and Title II-A, remain far below authorization levels and will not function as intended by Congress. Congress must raise the overall spending caps, so that educators can receive the critical resources they require, and so that every student is ensured access to the well-rounded education they need and deserve for academic and lifelong success.

- **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 used 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)

FY 2017	House Proposal	Senate Proposal	FY 2018 NafME - Roundtable Request
\$400.00	\$500.00	\$450.00	\$1,600.00 (Authorized Level)

FY 2017 Reaction

We are deeply disappointed in Congress' decision to appropriate only \$400 million for the SSAE grant program in FY 2017. By funding SSAE at a nominal fraction of its ESSA authorized level of \$1.6 billion, it endangers the program's long-term success and will not allow schools to make meaningful investments in critical areas of need, such as providing a "Well-Rounded Education." Because of the diminutive level of funding, states now have the option to allocate their SSAE funds through a state-level competitive grant, opposed to formula, which undermines the flexibility that Congress had originally intended for states and districts.

NAfME and the Roundtable urge Congress to ensure that Title IV is fully funded in future appropriations. SSAE must receive its fully authorized level of funding in FY18, and must be implemented as a formula program, as intended by its Congressional authors. Otherwise, Congress and the Administration will fail to provide our nation's students with the well-rounded course of study that they desperately need for academic success.

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- **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 2017	House Proposal	Senate Proposal	FY 2018 NAfME - Roundtable Request
\$15,460.00	\$15,460.00	\$15,485.00	\$15,460.00 (Authorized Level)

Additionally, the President's request includes suggested language that would dedicate \$1.0 billion of Title I, Part A funds towards portability, where the dollars would follow a low-income student to a public school of his or her choice. Congress must exclude this language in any funding proposal, as it would weaken the targeting of Title I funds, and continue implementing Title I programs as intended by Congress in ESSA.

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- **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 2017	House Proposal	Senate Proposal	FY 2018 NAfME - Roundtable Request
\$2,056.00	\$0.00 (Eliminated)	\$2,056.00	\$2,295.00 (Authorized Level)

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

Funding History (in millions)

FY 2017	House Proposal	Senate Proposal	FY 2018 NAfME - Roundtable Request
\$27.00	\$0.00 (Eliminated)	\$27.00	\$27.00 (Authorized Level)

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."