Introductions

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President Trump’s Transition

The Inauguration of Donald Trump

- Seamless Transition on a “ceremonial scale”
- Inauguration Day Protest & Women’s March
- Feb 28. President Trump to Speak at Joint Session of Congress

Education Priorities & Budget Proposal

- The $20 Billion School Choice Voucher Program
- Immediate freeze of rulemaking and 60-day postponement of finalized regulations that haven’t taken effect
  - Likely preparation for Congress’ intent to exercise the “Congressional Review Act.”
- Trump Budget Blueprint released - Reduces federal spending by $10.5 trillion in over 10 years
  - Influenced by the Heritage Foundation and the Republican Study Committee (RSC)
  - Includes cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
  - Largely a wish list to Congress
  - Full details to be released likely in April
Background & Profile

• DeVos was most recently the chair of the American Federation for Children, an organization responsible for crafting proposals to grow charter and school choice voucher programs.
  • Trump has proposed the creation of a $20 billion block grant intended to expand charter and private school options for economically disadvantaged children.

• DeVos is a well-known philanthropist and Republican mega-donor.

• DeVos also serves on the board of the Foundation for Excellence in Education, a Jeb Bush-founded group which has strongly supported the Common Core State Standards Initiative (though she maintains personal opposition to them).

• Pro Performing Arts (served as Board member for The Kennedy Center)
The Senate HELP Committee held its confirmation hearing for Betsy DeVos on January 17

The confirmation hearing left music education advocates with more questions than answers as very little was discussed with regard to the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

• As the Secretary of Education, DeVos stated she would encourage states to create voucher programs, but not try to impose them.

• DeVos revealed very little about how she intends to implement the Higher Education Act. When pressed on her stance on key regulations and the role of the government in student lending, she provided vague, noncommittal answers. DeVos acknowledged the problem of high volumes of student loan debt, but did not propose a solution.

• In another exchange, DeVos appeared confused about the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which requires public schools to provide children with disabilities a “free appropriate public education”, and governs how states and public agencies provide various services to millions of students.
As part of the confirmation process, NAfME submitted a series of questions concerning music education for usage by the Senate HELP Committee, which Ms. DeVos did not address:

- **January 27** - NAfME Issues ‘Call to Action’ Seeking Answers
- **January 31** – DeVos Responds to Some of the Questions Received
  - Her answers can be found on our [BroaderMinded Blog](#)
  - DeVos is approved by Senate HELP Committee for full Senate Confirmation, 12-11.

**Senate Moves Forward with DeVos Nomination**

- **February 3** – Senate Issues a 52-48 cloture vote, moving toward final vote on DeVos Nomination
- **February 6** – Senate Democrats Conduct All-Night “Debateathon” in last effort to derail DeVos Confirmation
- **February 7** – Betsy DeVos is confirmed by the Senate through a 51-50 count, with a tiebreaking vote from Vice President Mike Pence.
Now that Betsy DeVos has been confirmed:

- The Secretary and her team will play a major role in implementing ESSA
- States are slated to begin submitting their ESSA plans in April, and it will be up to DeVos and her staff to sign off on them.

Limitations of the Secretary of Education

Despite the many concerns regarding Secretary DeVos’ qualifications for the position, provisions in Title VIII and IX of ESSA limit the Secretary’s and the Department’s authority, including:

- Restricting Federal Interference by the Secretary of Education
- Restricting the Department of Education’s ability to control state accountability plans
Questions about DeVos Confirmation?
The Congressional Review Act (CRA) is an oversight tool for Congress that offers a check on federal agencies:

• If exercised, the law allows Congress a **60 day period** to conduct a review of major any rules or regulations issued by Executive Branch agencies that have yet to be implemented.
• If agreed upon by a majority, members of Congress may **overturn** a rule or regulation.

**How Does This Affect Education?**

Congress intends to review and remove two education related regulations issued by the Obama Administration:

1. *Teacher Preparation Regulations for the Higher Education Act (HEA)*
2. *ESSA’s Accountability Rule*
Teacher Preparation
Although NAfME and our members from higher education institutions believe in accountability for educator preparation programs, these rules are overly standardized, overly prescriptive, and will be too costly to implement.

- NAfME is formulating a legislative request that strongly supports Congress’ intent to exercise the CRA to remove these regulations.

ESSA Accountability
In August 2016, NAfME submitted comments to the Dept. of Education, which expressed concern on the narrow definition of accountability indicators, which may unintentionally reduce student access to music and arts due to being heavily weighted on tested subjects.

- NAfME suggested to broaden the definition and include measures “likely to increase student access to and participation in well-rounded education subject areas.”
- Unfortunately, this suggestion was not included in the final version of the rules.
Where Does the CRA Currently Stand?

• Republican leadership has decided that the CRA resolutions will originate from the House, opposed to the Senate.

• Both CRA resolutions cleared the House floor on Tuesday (2/7):
  o Teacher Prep, 240-181 vote
  o ESSA Accountability, 234-190 vote

• The Senate is expected to take up CRA before the end of the month.
FY 2017 Appropriations

As of December 9, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR)

What Does This Mean?
• The CR extends government funding at its previous fiscal levels (FY16) temporarily until April 28, 2017.
• Appropriations discussions for FY 17 will resume likely in March/April 2017.

How Does This Affect ESSA and Federal Education Funding?
• For now, many of ESSA’s programs will be unaffected, as funds do not roll from the U.S. Department of Education to the States until the summer of 2017.

• However, if the appropriations process is not completed by the new April 28 deadline, Congress could look to pass another CR to finish out FY 17, which would complicate ESSA’s first year of implementation.
2017 Appropriations
Legislative Agenda
COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017:

- 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 CR is used, 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.
• **Support Access to Music Education for the Most Disadvantaged Students** by Fully Funding Title I, Part A:  
  $15.36 Billion Request (Title I-A)

• **Support Professional Development for Music Educators** by Fully Funding Title I, Part A, Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A and F:  
  $2.29 Billion Request (Title II-A)  
  $30 million (Title IV-F)

• **Support Access to Music Education as Part of a Well-Rounded Education** by Fully Funding Title IV, Part A:  
  $1.65 Billion Request (Title IV-A)
# Proposals From the 114th Congress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Senate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Education – Total</td>
<td>$67 Billion</td>
<td>$67.8 Billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title I Grants to LEAs (School Districts)</td>
<td>$15.4 Billion</td>
<td>$15.4 Billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Effective Instruction (Title II, Part A)</td>
<td>$1.95 Billion</td>
<td>$2.05 Billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title IV, Part A (SSAEG)</td>
<td>$1 Billion**</td>
<td>$300 Million**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts in Education</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>$27 Million</td>
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Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization Proposals

Student Loan Forgiveness for Educators Teaching Children in Disadvantaged Areas

- Under current law, if you work for consecutive 5 full years in a qualifying school, you could have up to $17,500 of student loans forgiven as a “highly qualified” math, science, or special education teacher.

- In light of ESSA’s commitment to a well-rounded education, all subjects defined as a well-rounded education, such as music education, should be eligible for the $17,500 amount of student aid to be forgiven.

University Pilot Programs

- NAfME proposes a university pilot program that encourages music education preservice programs to expand the diversity of music taught and that teachers can teach.

- NAfME proposes a pilot to increase the diversity of students via musicianship admitted to a music education preservice program as most traditional music education programs include auditions and entry exams directly (and often solely) related to Western classical music.
Perkins CTE Reauthorization Proposals

Well-Rounded Curriculum Integration with Career & Technical Education

- As education and economic needs change in the 21st century, the educational environment must be prepared to adapt and incorporate innovative programs to fulfill those demands.

- We hope that the next reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act integrates a well-rounded curriculum, so that schools can pioneer innovative courses, such as music technology and recording arts.

- Through revising this legislation, we give students the opportunity for success in non-traditional careers that consist of high-skill and high-wage occupations.
Advocacy Resources
Public Policy Hub

http://www.nafme.org/advocacy/public-policy/

Everything ESSA
Learn what the new federal education law means for music teachers and students
#MusicStandsAlone

Rules and Regs
Learn about rules and regulations from the U.S. Department of Education that impact music education
Advocacy Resources

Coalitions

The Music Education Policy Roundtable

Originally conceived of and formalized by the National Association for Music Education (NAME) and American String Teachers Association (ASTA), the Music Education Policy Roundtable is music education’s premier policy coalition, representing the unification of many great music education organizations under a single banner. Together, the Roundtable works in efforts to achieve a consensus set of federal legislative recommendations, on behalf of the profession and all of those who stand to benefit from its contributions to education.

For legislative materials, formal statements, key resources, and interested membership, please visit the Roundtable’s webpage.

The Title IV, Part A Funding Coalition

Within the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA), the landmark law includes a new block grant titled Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAE), which was created under Title IV, Part A. This grant will provide supplemental funding to help states and school districts and provide access to “Well-Rounded” education subjects, which now includes music and the arts.

The Title IV, Part A Coalition is an alliance of like-minded prestigious education groups that are working to urge Congress to increase funding for this program. Formed in 2016, NAME joined the Coalition as a founding member; the Association has since participated in key meetings with members of Congress, and help organize key press events on behalf of the Coalition.

For more information on the Title IV, Part A Coalition, please visit here.

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF)

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF) is a coalition that was founded in 1969 with the goal of achieving adequate federal financial support for our nation’s educational system. The coalition is voluntary, nonprofit and nonpartisan. CEF members include educational associations, institutions, agencies, and organizations whose interests range from preschool to postgraduate education in both public and private systems. The National Association for Music Education has been a member of CEF since 2010, and continues to maintain an active role as the ONLY organization that represents the music and arts community within the coalition.

For more information on NAME’s membership and involvement with CEF, please visit here.

For more information on CEF, including other members, policy papers, and legislative analysis, please visit the CEF website.
Here you will find different ways on how **YOU** can:

- Support Music Education in Federal Education Policy!
- Be Involved With the Legislative Process!
- Engage Your Members in Congress!

[bit.ly/NAfMEgrassroots](bit.ly/NAfMEgrassroots)
What is the role of music in education? Our nation's students? Today's education culture places a high value on quantifying academic achievement. Gauging student progress and learning is clearly important, but the true mission of education lies in shaping the students behind the scores.

Studies have proven that there are positive links between engagement with music and academic achievement, but that data is only part of the bigger picture.

Music does something even more important – it shapes the way our students understand themselves and the world around them. It allows for deep engagement and nurtures assets and 21st century professional skills that are critical to future success, such as creativity, curiosity, determination, interpersonal and intrapersonal communication, and motivation.

To learn the "beyond the bubbles" arguments for music and join the broader minded movement, please visit here.
ESSA State Plans Template

Your state is creating its ESSA State Plan now!

Is music education included in your state?

Match your state’s draft to NAfME’s template found on NAfME’s Everything ESSA (bit.ly/EverythingESSA)
Upcoming Advocacy Webinars

May 3 – Content TBD
Wrap Up & Questions?