



## Summer 2016 Backgrounder – Fully Funding Title I

### Background:

After years of failed negotiations, in December 2015, Congress finally passed a new version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 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 a part of a “**Well-Rounded Education**” (Title VIII, Sec. 8002 of ESSA).

ESSA provides a clear message that students should have access to a “Well-Rounded Education,” a broad and rich curriculum that includes music education. Support for well-rounded education is seen throughout the law, including in the section with the largest funding allocation, Title I.

### Legislative Request:

- **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 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017 President’s Request	FY 2017 NAFME - Roundtable Request
\$14,409.80	\$14,909.00	\$15,359.80	<b>\$15,359.80</b> (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 for 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.

### Key Points:

- Title I has been renamed under ESSA to read “Support for basic programs” in both states and school districts. This name change signals the intent of Congress to value the entirety of education in supporting our nation’s most academically at-risk students as well as those from communities of poverty.
- Title I, Part A schoolwide programs, are now available to provide supplemental funds for a well-rounded education, including music. While schoolwide programs have, in some districts, supported supplemental music education in schools, the new language in ESSA requires that schoolwide schools speak to how they will support a “well-rounded education” through their schoolwide plan. For the first time, music can be called out in all Title I schoolwide plans across the nation.
- Title I, Part A targeted assistance programs may now, for the first time under ESSA, provide supplemental funds for a well-rounded education, including music. Targeted assistance programs provide supplemental support for students who are most academically at-risk. For the first time, the new law recognizes the power of providing a well-rounded education for these students in order to support their academic growth.
- Fully funding Title I will allow schools, districts and states to take the most advantage of the new flexibility found within ESSA, and to best support a “well-rounded education” for our nation’s students.