



**National Association  
for Music Education**



**MUSIC EDUCATION  
POLICY ROUNDTABLE**

## Fiscal Year 2018 Federal Appropriations Requests

### Who We Are:

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) is among the world’s largest arts education organizations, representing over 131,000 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 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, high-quality, in-school music programs.



### 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.

- **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)

ESSA Authorized Level	FY 2017	President’s Request	FY 2018 NAfME - Roundtable Request
\$1,600.00	\$400.00	\$0.00 (Eliminated)	<b>\$1,600.00</b> (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 2016	FY 2017	President's Request	FY 2018 NAfME - Roundtable Request
\$14,910.00	\$15,460.00	\$15,900.00	<b>\$15,460.00</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 Title I, Part A at its authorized \$15.46 billion level, which is the combined total Title I, Part A and SIG program.

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 2016	FY 2017	President's Request	FY 2018 NAfME - Roundtable Request
\$2,350.00	\$2,056.00	\$0.00 (Eliminated)	<b>\$2,295.00</b> (Authorized Level)

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

#### Funding History (in millions)

FY 2016	FY 2017	President's Request	FY 2018 NAfME - Roundtable Request
\$27.00	\$27.00	\$0.00 (Eliminated)	<b>\$27.00</b>

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."