



**National Association
for Music Education**

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December 10, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on
Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on
Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blount
Chairman, Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray,
Ranking Member Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Appropriators:

The National Association for Music Education, along with the undersigned state music education associations and members of the Music Education Policy Roundtable, write to urge you to revise the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations allocation [302(b) funding level] to substantially increase education funding, rather than approve the virtual freeze at the FY 2019 level found in the Senate's version released in September. An increase in allocations would help well-rounded education programs inch closer to authorized funding while allowing other programs to achieve their intent since the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

ESSA includes a \$1.6 billion authorization level for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program (Title IV, Part A). In FY18, Congress provided \$1.1 billion for this program, and in FY19, appropriated \$1.170 billion -- significant investments in meeting the comprehensive educational needs of our nation's students. Through an informal survey last spring, we were able to track more than \$30 million of Title IV-A funding invested at the local level to support increased access to high-quality music and arts programs in 26 states. The dollars you are appropriating are making a difference in the lives of students as they gain access to quality music and arts education programs as part of a well-rounded education. We are grateful for this past support and ask that you increase your strong, ongoing investment in this program.

Title I, Part A directs "high-poverty" schools to create a "schoolwide plan" outlining their chosen whole school reform model. The chosen whole school reform model can include an emphasis on music and arts integration as a means to improve academic performance and student engagement for all students. Congress also invited schools to include information on activities in support of a well-rounded education, such as music and arts, in their Title I schoolwide plans, emphasizing the centrality of music and the arts to whole school reform and transformation.

Additionally, the Title I, Part A Targeted Assistance program provides focused, supplemental intervention programs to help academically struggling students. Under ESSA, the focused resources may include programs, activities, and academic courses necessary to provide a well-rounded education that includes music.

Title II, Part A of ESSA provides funding used to improve teacher and principal quality. Funds have traditionally been focused on professional development.” Through ESSA, music and arts educators have an expanded allowable use of Title II funds for these kinds of activities.

An increase in the Labor-HHS-Education allocation ensures that these three programs receive an adequate increase in funding while also addressing other education programs and domestic priorities. Funding for a well-rounded education helps provide equity and access for all students to engage in curriculum that supports social-emotional learning. By passing ESSA nearly four years ago, Congress committed to prioritizing a well-rounded education for all students and the necessary funding required to ensure it. We urge Congress to continue support for a well-rounded education through approving appropriate and necessary funding levels for education in FY2020.

Sincerely,

National Association for Music Education
Alabama Music Educators Association
California Music Educators Association
Florida Music Educators Association
Idaho Music Educators Association
Kansas Music Educators Association
Kentucky Music Educators Association
Louisiana Music Educators Association
Maine Music Educators Association
Michigan Music Education Association
Minnesota Music Educators Association
Missouri Music Educators Association
Montana Music Educators Association
Nebraska Music Education Association
New Hampshire Music Educators
Association
New York State School Music Education
Pennsylvania Music Educators Association
Rhode Island Music Educators Association
South Dakota Music Educators Association
Tennessee Music Education Association
Vermont Music Educators Association
Virginia Music Educators Association
Washington Music Educators Association
West Virginia Music Educators Association
Wisconsin Music Educators Association



The Gordon Institute for Music Learning
(GIML)
Harmony Project
Jazz at Lincoln Center
Music for All
Music Together Worldwide
Music Travel Consultants
Musicians Toolkit
NAMM
National Federation of State High School
Associations
The National Music Council
Organization of American Kodaly Educators
Progressive Music
Quadrant Research
Quaver Music
Save the Music Foundation
Recording Academy
WURRLYedu