



**National Association
for Music Education**



MUSIC EDUCATION
POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Fiscal Year 2021 Federal Appropriations Requests

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. To make these opportunities a reality for students, Congress must follow the Every Student Succeeds Act’s (ESSA) 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 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 and disadvantaged students, including students of color.

Funding History for Title IV, Part A [SSAE]

FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021 President’s Budget	FY 2021 NAFME - Roundtable Request
\$1.17 Billion	\$1.21 Billion	*	\$1.6 billion

FY 2020 Reaction

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) was pleased to support Congress’ FY 2020 bipartisan omnibus appropriations bill, which provided \$1.1 billion for the Title IV-A block grant. This figure moves the program close to the authorized amount.

Since the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), achieving full funding for Title IV-A has remained as NAFME’s top appropriations priority. With this funding increase, Title IV-A will finally operate as a formula grant program for all states, as intended by law. This will provide numerous school districts, including many schools in rural and urban and rural areas, with the true flexibility they deserve to invest in a well-rounded curriculum that includes providing access to a sequential and standards-based music education. We thank Congress for this outstanding support and continue to urge for full funding for the SSAE block grant, so that every student has access to a well-rounded education.

- **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

FY 2019	FY 2020	FY2020 President’s Budget	FY 2021 NAFME - Roundtable Request
\$15.86 Billion	\$16.18 Billion	*	\$16.31 Billion

- **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 2019	FY 2020	President’s Budget	FY 2021 NAFME - Roundtable Request
\$2.1 Billion	\$2.13 Billion	*	\$2.16 Billion

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

Funding History (in millions)

FY 2019	FY 2020	President’s Budget	FY 2021 NAFME - Roundtable Request
\$29 Million	\$30 Million	*	\$35.00

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.

***The President’s FY2021 Budget**

The Administration suggests combining these and 29 K-12 discretionary programs authorized by Congress in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). If this budget became law, almost all ESSA programs would be consolidated into a single block grant, allowing the Department of Education to slash staffing and administrative costs over time and significantly reduce the federal role in education. The \$19.4 billion allocated to this grant represents a 20 percent cut to the combined allocation of all 29 programs from the last fiscal year. Establishing such a large block grant with such a significant cut would cause district level chaos, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic which already has state budgets reeling. This most certainly would force school districts to cut programs that are essential to learning.