National Association for Music Education
VIRTUAL HILL MONTH FOR MUSIC EDUCATION
MARCH 2021
NAfME Public Policy Staff

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Background and Logistics
Preparing for Virtual Hill Month 2021

**What is our purpose for Virtual Hill Month?**

1. Sharing your stories on the impact of music education during the pandemic
2. Sharing our mission and Legislative Requests (asks)
3. Increase federal visibility or “footprint” on Capitol Hill
4. Build ongoing relationships between stakeholders and key decision-makers

**State Captains**

Each state should have a designated state captain:

- Coordinate schedule of meetings and state-specific materials
- Usually the state executive, current President, or advocacy chair
Your Delegation

Your Delegation’s Participants

• Executive Director
• Presidents
• Advocacy Chair
• State Editor
• Board Members
• Active Members

One person to serve as “State Captain”.
Five or less participants per meeting recommended.

Please use this link to notify us of your delegation participants by February 24th.
Scheduling Your Hill Meetings

Consider partnering with a NAMM delegation in your state.
Scheduling Your Hill Meetings

**Start Scheduling Now!**

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)
[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

Schedule meetings with Members of Congress representing your state. Take note if they belong to:

- House Education and the Workforce Members
- Senate HELP Committee Members
- L-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Members (House and Senate)
- Congressional Arts Caucus/Senate Cultural Caucus

**Meetings with other members are just as important!**
Scheduling Your Hill Meetings

How to Schedule Hill Meetings:

Email a written request or fill out an online meeting request:

• Ideally, you will want to meet with their legislative assistant who specializes in education policy for their office.
• If a legislative assistant is not listed, email their legislative director.
• If neither are listed, email the scheduler.
• Timewise, ideally meetings would occur prior to March 15th
• Ask them how they would like to meet? (Virtual platform or phone?)

*NAfME Policy Staff will email state “captains” a list of Capitol Hill staffers for your Congressional Delegation soon! Please remember to designate your state lead for Virtual Hill Month.
Scheduling Your Hill Meetings

Sample script (email/phone):

“Hello, my name is __________; I’m calling from the _______ Music Educators Association – we represent __ educators and __ students and their families in the state.

My colleagues are participating in the National Association for Music Education’s Virtual Hill Month during the month or March, in celebration of Music In Our Schools Month.

We would like to share our concerns and interests regarding music education, including the need for more education funding in a COVID Relief Package, continuing support in the appropriations process, and support for the Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act.

Please let us know if you would like to meet on a virtual platform or over the phone. We look forward to hearing from you and learning how we may work together with the Representative/Senator on these issues.”
NAfME Public Policy Office Hours

If you need help or advice on scheduling meetings or with the legislative requests, please join the NAfME Public Policy team on every Tuesday in February and March at 6:00 pm Eastern for our office hours!

During this time, NAfME staff will be available to meet with NAfME members and state leaders to answer your questions.

Click here to register!
Federal Landscape
Post-Election Federal Considerations

New U.S. Secretary of Education – Nominee – Dr. Miguel Cardona, currently Education Commissioner for Connecticut

New Deputy Education Secretary – Nominee – Cindy Marten, currently Superintendent, San Diego USD.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>$$$$$$</th>
<th>Policy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Finishing FY21 Appropriations - DONE</td>
<td>President Biden’s educational priorities in first 100 days?</td>
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<td>Stimulus Relief for states and schools – started – more is needed</td>
<td>School opening guidance under a new administration – and support for music/performing arts?</td>
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<td>Appropriations leaders – Senate and House</td>
<td>Senate HELP Committee Chair – Senator Patty Murray, Washington</td>
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<td>Narrower majority in the House and Senate – impacting how bills move? Reconciliation processes</td>
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Conversations with the Transition Team

Roundtable requests – 12/21/2020

1. COVID-19 Relief funding for schools and states
2. School guidance based on science – sharing aerosol research study and our guidance on how to safely return to in-school music
3. Increased authorizations and appropriations in support of a well-rounded education

29 signed organizations/companies

https://nafme.org/advocacy/music-education-policy-roundtable/
Conversations with the Transition Team

Arts, Humanities, Social Studies requests – 12/21/2020

1. Restore the NAEP Arts, Foreign Language, Geography and Economics Assessments
2. Appropriately fund these assessments – robust and multiple grades
3. Fund and staff content specialists within the US ED

9 signed associations

https://nafme.org/advocacy/public-policy/
COVID Relief Packages and Education Funding

Four COVID-19 relief packages passed by Congress provided around $68 billion in education funding for K-12 education:

Funding has been distributed through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF). This program distributes funds to states based on their Title I, Part A funding.

An additional $7 billion distributed through the Emergency Education Relief Grants to Governors: A portion of the funds must be distributed to private schools. The remaining have been given to states based on a its population of 5- through 24-year-olds and its number of Title I students. Governors can use these funds to support early learning, k–12 education, and higher education programs.

Emergency education funding allocated for K-12 education during the Great Recession of 2009 was over $80 billion. Schools did not need to account for mitigation of the coronavirus and schools reopening.
COVID V

President Biden and House Funding Plan:
• ~ $130 billion directly for schools K-12
  • Additional $5 billion discretionary funding for education - Governors
• $350 billion to states and localities to shore up budgets and support pandemic relief work and front-line workers

Current Senate GOP Proposal:
• $20 billion for K-12 schools.
• No funding for states and localities

*GOP Senators say funding is negotiable*
Legislative Requests
Education Funding Relief for Public Schools

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an extremely difficult period for education in the United States. Schools have never faced the challenges that have come with the shutdown of schools while trying to endure an economic crisis that threatens significant school cuts across the country:

• According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, state budget shortfalls expected from COVID-19’s economic fallout will total a cumulative $615 billion over state fiscal years 2020-2022.

• The unequal opportunity of the “homework gap” experienced by approximately 12 million students who continue to lack home internet access, has had an even greater impact during the pandemic.

• Students will soon return to school increasingly in need of environments which support their social and emotional development.
Education Funding Relief for Public Schools

Congress must pass, and the President enact, legislation that appropriates:

- At least $130 billion in funds to provide flexible resources for K-12 schools to reopen or provide distance learning.
- At least $350 billion in aid to state and local governments to backfill state education budget shortfalls.
- At least $4 billion in dedicated funding to the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC’s) E-Rate program.
Enumeration of MUSIC as Part of a WELL-ROUNDED Education in ESSA

“(52) WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION.—The term ‘well-rounded education’ means courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject, as determined by the State or local educational agency, with the purpose of providing all students access to an enriched curriculum and educational experience.”
## ESSA - Well-Rounded Funding – FY 21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY19 Enacted</th>
<th>FY20 Enacted</th>
<th>FY21 Enacted</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title IV, Part A</td>
<td>$1.6 billion</td>
<td>$1.17 billion</td>
<td>$1.21 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title I, Part A</td>
<td>Awaiting President’s Budget</td>
<td>$15.86 Billion</td>
<td>$16.31 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title II, Part A</td>
<td>$2.29 billion</td>
<td>$2.1 billion</td>
<td>$2.13 billion</td>
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FY2022 Appropriations Agenda

• Support Access to Music Education as Part of a Well-Rounded Education by Fully Funding Title IV, Part A:
  
  \$1.60 Billion Request (Title IV-A)

• Support Access to Music Education for the Most Disadvantaged Students by Fully Funding Title I, Part A:
  
  Awaiting President’s Budget (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)  \$27 million (Title IV-F)
Rebuild America’s Schools Act

The Rebuild America’s Schools Act would invest $100 billion toward physical and digital infrastructure needs in schools. The bill would:

• Create a $70 billion grant program and $30 billion tax credit bond program targeted at high-poverty schools with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff.
• For FY2022, priority given to infrastructure to re-open schools.
• Develop a comprehensive national database on the condition of public school facilities. This currently does not exist.
• Expand access to high-speed broadband to ensure that public schools have the reliable and high-speed Internet access they need for digital learning.
• **Music and Arts Facilities included!**
More Virtual Hill Month Events
Music Education-Social Emotional Learning
Congressional Briefing in Mid-March
Virtual Hill Month and MIOSM Celebration

Join us in the first week of April for a celebration of Music and Advocacy!

As part of the streaming event, state MEAs can share their virtual meeting experiences and successes.
Welcome to a new national campaign in support of *arts education for all students*!

[ArtsAreEducation.org]
Sponsored by

Arts Education Partnership
American Alliance for Theatre and Education
National Art Education Association
Educational Theatre Association
National Association for Music Education
National Dance Education Organization
State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education
Young Audiences Arts for Learning
The Challenges to arts education in 2021-22

● Budget shortfalls
● A focus on remediation
● A continued need for Personal Protective Equipment that is unique to the performing arts classroom
The campaign core ask

The Arts ARE Education and must remain central to a well-rounded education and fully funded to support the well-being of all students and the entire school community.

We are asking school boards and community members throughout the country to support funding for school-based arts education programs in 2021-22.
The strategies

1. **Launch the campaign** on January 19, with the first of six virtual Arts ARE Education Tuesday Town Halls, with each event showcasing an individual arts discipline.

2. **Reach out to school districts**, asking them to pass the Arts ARE Education Resolution.

3. **Reach out to arts educators**, asking them to:
   - sign the Arts ARE Education Pledge
   - urge their district school board to pass the Resolution
   - encourage other community members and organizations to sign the Pledge
   - send a letter to their state representative urging them to support arts education in their district.

4. **Organize Virtual Arts Education Hill Month** in March
Questions
Thank You For Your Dedication To Music Education

Please contact us with questions:

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Tooshar Swain (ToosharS@NAfME.org)
Rob Edwards (RobE@NAfME.org)
Matt Barusch (MattB@NAfME.org)
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