



National Association
for Music Education



MUSIC EDUCATION
POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Support Music Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Every Student Succeeds Act's (ESSA) enumeration of "music" as part of a "Well-Rounded Education" provides opportunities to increase student access to music education. This commitment to a well-rounded education, that includes music, is more important than ever as students will return to school increasingly in need of environments that support their social and emotional development.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly harsh on states' ability to balance their budgets and adequately fund social services. 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. These shortfalls will have extremely negative consequences for education, which is often a target for budget cuts.

We know how vital music education is for our students at a time of difficulty, isolation, and uncertainty. The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the Music Education Policy Roundtable support the following provisions to help deliver an equitable, well-rounded education that includes music.

For the next COVID-19 relief package, Congress should appropriate:

- 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 \$7 billion in dedicated funding to the Federal Communications Commission's (**FCC's**) **E-Rate program**.

Congress should support access to Music Education as part of a well-rounded education by appropriating:

- \$1.6 billion for **Title IV, Part A's** formula-funded block grant that may be used to improve access to music education.
- Adequate funding for **Title I, Part A**, which, through both school-wide and targeted assistance programs, can provide supplemental funds for a "Well-Rounded Education," for the most disadvantaged students in our country. (*Awaiting President's Budget for funding numbers*)
- \$2.295 billion for **Title II, Part A** to support professional development for music educators, as part of supporting a "Well-Rounded Education."

Congress should pass the **Reopen and Rebuild American's Schools Act**:

- This legislation, introduced by Representative Bobby Scott (VA-3), would create a \$100 billion investment targeted at high-poverty schools to address school infrastructure to address COVID-19 health and safety risks of COVID-19 to students and staff. The bill includes the renovation or development of music and arts facilities as an allowable use of funds.