

Joe Dyvig - Equity Statement

I believe all students should have access to music education regardless of the socioeconomic status of their family or community, race, or ability. Music disciplines, genres, musicians, and repertoire studied should be diverse so that students not only see their own cultural identity represented but also learn about music beyond their current world view. Care should be taken to encourage traditionally underrepresented groups with an eye to find examples of musicians from history that have been marginalized and bring them to the fore for consideration. Teacher should be trained on how to teach music of diverse cultures, engage culture bearers in their communities, and how to identify and avoid cultural appropriation. Course offerings should reflect a wide variety of skill and interest levels. Access to courses should not be limited by access to instruments, equipment, materials, and a quality instructor. Work needs to continue on identifying, recruiting, and retaining music educators that are demographically representative of the students they teach. As a professional organization that provides advocacy and professional development for music educators, NAFME should look at all efforts through an equity lens to make progress towards these ends.