



## **Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) Legislative Agenda**

The Music Education Policy Roundtable is a public policy coalition led by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) that advocates for a high-quality music education for all students. Consisting of music organizations, trade associations, and businesses, the Roundtable is unified under a single policy banner and works to achieve a consensus set of federal legislative recommendations aimed at ensuring the continued presence and expansion of high-quality music programs in America’s schools. The Roundtable believes that music education should be taught by certified music educators, delivering sequential, standards-based music education to all students across the nation, regardless of personal circumstance or background.

As revised by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) designates music as part of a “well-rounded education,” providing federal funding and more opportunities for increased student access to music education. This commitment to music education is more important than ever as students have returned to in-person learning increasingly in need of environments that support their social and emotional development. The music classroom provides such an environment. Studies have shown that, when compared to other students, students with high arts engagement (including music) exhibit higher levels of self-concept in how they value themselves, increased abilities in performance skills and self-evaluation, a stronger tendency to employ empathetic thinking, and more opportunity to develop interpersonal skills. In order to reinforce the positive impacts that music education has on students, we urge Congress to support the following:

### **Federal Appropriations**

#### **Student Support**

**Title I, Part A**—Provides funds to school districts to help disadvantaged children achieve proficiency on challenging academic standards and improve the performance of low-achieving schools.

- We request this program be funded at **\$20.5 billion** in FY 2024, which is the same amount President Biden requested in his budget proposal.
- We also request Congress to include language in the annual Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill directing the U.S. Department of Education to issue guidance for states and districts on the use of Title I funds to support music education as part of a “well-rounded education.”

**Title IV, Part A**—A flexible block grant program which supports activities in three broad areas:

(1) providing students with a well-rounded education (e.g., arts and music, college and career counseling, STEM, civics, advanced placement); (2) supporting safe and healthy students (e.g., comprehensive school mental health, drug and violence prevention, health and physical education); and (3) supporting the effective use of technology.

- We request this program be funded at **\$1.65 billion** in FY 2024, which is the full authorization level in ESSA.

**Nita Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers**—A formula grant program that provides financial support to local communities for after-school, before-school, and summer learning programs serving students in low-performing schools. Programs are provided three- to five-year seed grants that support partnerships among community-based organizations, faith-based partners, private providers, and school partners (public, private, and charter).

- We request this program be funded at **\$2 billion** in FY 2024.

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) State Grant program (Part B)**—Provides special education services and supports to 7.4 million eligible children with disabilities to ensure a free and appropriate public education.

- We request this program be funded at **\$19.5 billion** in FY 2024.
- We also request that Congress explore pathways for the federal government to pay 40% of the average per pupil expenditure for special education.

### **Supporting an Experienced and Diverse Educator Workforce**

**Title II, Part A**—Focuses on improving student academic achievement by bolstering skills and expertise of teachers, principals, and other educators and increasing the number of high-quality teachers and principals in schools.

- We request this program be funded at **\$2.4 billion** in FY 2024.
- We also request Congress to include language in the annual Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill directing the U.S. Department of Education to issue guidance for states and districts on the use of Title II funds to support professional learning opportunities for music and other arts educators.

**Augustus F. Hawkins Center for Excellence program**—Designed to support comprehensive teacher preparation programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and other minority-serving institutions (MSIs).

- We request this program be funded at **\$300 million** in FY 2024.

### **Supporting Music and the Arts**

**Assistance for Arts Education Program**—Promotes arts education for all students, through activities such as professional development for arts educators; development and dissemination of accessible instructional materials; and community and national outreach activities that strengthen and expand partnerships among schools, local education agencies, and centers for the arts.

- We request this program be funded at **\$40 million** in FY 2024.

**National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**—Advances equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice as the largest funder of the arts and arts education.

- We request this agency be funded at **\$211 million** in FY 2024.

**Institute of Education Sciences (IES)** — Collects issue-oriented data from state educational agencies and national samples of other educational organizations and participants, including districts, and public and private elementary and secondary schools, teachers and principals, and public libraries.

- We request at least **\$4 million** for IES in FY 2024 to implement a Fast Response Survey System study in the arts and that IES support other external efforts to collect data on access and participation in a wide variety of music education programs.

**IES National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP)** — Also known as the “Nation’s Report Card,” provides important information about student achievement and learning experiences in various subjects to improve education policy and practice.

- We support funding at a level sufficient in FY 2024 to include the arts, economics, foreign (world) languages, and geography as part of the annual Nation’s Report Card.

### **U.S. Department of Education (ED) Salaries & Expenses**

- To help oversee the appropriate use of the funds requested as part of our legislative agenda to support music and the arts, humanities, and social studies, we request that ED receive ample funding in FY 2024 to increase its employee count to include three senior-level content advisors, one each for music and the arts, humanities, and social studies. These positions can support department-wide policymaking and reporting for our subject areas. This request is modeled on prior Special Assistants in the Arts positions that existed over the past two decades at ED.

### **Federal Legislation**

#### **Arts Education for All Act (not-yet-reintroduced) by Representative Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01)**

- The Arts Education for All Act would expand arts education and programming to America’s youngest learners, preK-12 students, and youths impacted by the juvenile justice system.
- The bill includes provisions to support the professional development of arts educators and to amend the ESEA in order to provide more oversight into the implementation of arts education programs.
- The bill also requires research on the use of arts education by the National Center for Education Research and the collection of data on arts education by the National Center for Education Statistics.

### **Supporting Organizations**

American Choral Directors Association  
 American Orff-Schulwerk Association  
 American School Band Directors Association  
 American String Teachers Association

Americans for the Arts  
Chorus America  
College Band Directors National Association  
Connect Through Music  
Drum Corps International  
Education Through Music  
Guitar & Accessories Marketing Association  
Harmony Helper  
Hawaii Youth Symphony  
HBCU National Band and Orchestra Directors' Consortium  
The HBCU Recruitment Center, PSC  
Hip-Hop Education Center  
Jazz at Lincoln Center  
Jazz Education Network  
JazzSLAM  
J.W. Pepper  
Lang Lang International Music Foundation  
League of American Orchestras  
Music Teachers National Association  
Music Travel Consultants  
National Association for Music Education  
National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music  
National Association of Music Merchants  
National Concerts  
National Federation of State High School Associations  
National Music Council  
Organization of American Kodály Educators  
Percussive Arts Society  
Prodigious Music Concepts, LLC  
Quadrant Research  
QuaverEd  
Recording Academy  
Rock and Soul Forever Foundation  
Sankofa Songs  
Save the Music Foundation  
Strathmore  
Wurrly, LLC