118th Congress Funding Priorities

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) is among the world’s largest arts education organizations, representing more than 57,000 music educators and music advocates across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and internationally. Our goal is to ensure that every student has access to a well-balanced, comprehensive, and high-quality program of music instruction taught by qualified teachers. The passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) designated music as part of a “Well-Rounded Education,” providing opportunities for increased student access to music education. To reinforce the positive impacts that music education has on students, we urge Congress to support the following funding proposals and legislation.

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.
  - We also request Congress to include language in the annual Labor-HHS-Education 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., college and career counseling, STEM, arts and music, 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.

- **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 **$3 billion** in FY 2024.
  - We also request Congress to include language in the annual Labor-HHS-Education 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 education programs.

- **Augustus F. Hawkins Center of 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.

- **Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grant Program**—Funds comprehensive educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education.
  - We request this program be funded at **$1 billion** in FY 2024.

- **Supporting Effective Educators Development Grant (SEED) Program**—Provides competitive grants to higher education institutions, national nonprofit organizations, and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to support evidence-based professional development, that:
  - Leads to advanced credentialing, or
  - Provides non-traditional educators pathways to obtain certification
    - Specifically for educators working in underserved communities

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.

- **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 assessments in the arts, economics, foreign (world) languages, and geography as part of the annual Nation’s Report Card.