

On behalf of our members, NAMM extends its appreciation to Members of Congress for providing schools with needed resources to support the educational and developmental needs of children. NAMM represents more than 15,400 member companies and individuals with a global workforce of more than 475,000 employees in the \$19.5 Billion music products industry. As we did during COVID, NAMM members continue to support students and schools in their communities, and we are grateful for federal relief funds that support programs to help students regain their academic and social-emotional footing through music and the arts.

Music is a sustaining and empowering activity for people of all ages and abilities. As volumes of ongoing research demonstrate:

- music contributes to the [academic achievement](#) and [social and emotional well-being](#) of children
- music and the creative industries are viable career choices for a workforce seeking employees able to combine flexible thinking, resilience, creativity, and technological skills
- music learning leads to creative expression, problem solving skills and the ability to work independently or with others

Together with the National Federation of State High School Associations, The NAMM Foundation offers a new resource for families and schools to, [“Consider a Career in Music,”](#) and NAMM remains steadfast in the belief that every child should have access to a well-rounded education that includes music.

NAMM was actively engaged for more than a decade in the creation of the bipartisan ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) that specifically designates music as part of a well-rounded education. NAMM continues to advocate for Congressional oversight over the implementation of ESSA and for the full funding of its Title II and Title IV, Part A programs that include support for music education and professional development for music educators. NAMM members are grateful for the FY 2023 increase of \$100 million for ESSA’s Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program to expand opportunities for a well-rounded education that includes music.

**NAMM members request that Congress continue its strong support for the intent of ESSA and expand access to well-rounded subjects that include music and the arts by:**

- *Fully funding ESSA’s Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants) to its **authorized level of \$1.65 billion** (an increase from FY 2023 appropriation of \$1.38 billion) to ensure that the well-rounded education goals of ESSA are realized for every child;*
- *Supporting ESSA’s Title I funding for our nation’s most vulnerable children and clarify that Title I funds can be used to expand music and arts learning opportunities;*
- *Supporting ESSA’s Title II funding for professional development that promotes the effectiveness of teachers;*
- *Fully funding the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), which provides competitive grants in every state and congressional district for our national arts and culture organizations.*