



MUSIC EDUCATION

POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) Legislative Agenda

The Music Education Policy Roundtable is a public policy coalition that advocates for a high-quality music education for all students. Representing music organizations, trade associations, businesses, and music education advocates, 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 music programs in America's schools.

Federal Appropriations

Student Support

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

- We request this program be funded at **\$20.5 billion** in FY 2025.
- 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 **\$1.6 billion** in FY 2025.

The 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 **\$2.09 billion** in FY 2025.

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 **\$16.25 billion** in FY 2025.
- We also request that Congress explore pathways for the federal government to provide 40% of funding for IDEA.

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 2025.
- 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 educators.

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

- We request this program be funded at **\$30 million** in FY 2025.

Supporting Music and the Arts

Assistance to 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 2025.

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 no less than **\$211 million** in FY 2025 to broaden access to the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of the arts and to advance creativity and innovation in communities across the United States.

Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Fast Response Survey System (FRSS)—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 2025 to implement an FRSS study in the arts that includes information on access to 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 2025 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 2025 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

Advancing Equity Through the Arts and Humanities Act (H.R. 3239) introduced by Representative Barbara Lee (CA-12)

- The Advancing Equity Through the Arts and Humanities Act will create the “Advancing Equity Through the Arts and Humanities Program” to be carried out by the Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The program is aimed at increasing engagement with public and nonprofit entities, including faith-based and community-based organizations, that serve and are led by people of color, and to support arts and humanities projects that directly combat systemic racism.

Arts Education for All Act (H.R. 5581) introduced by Representative Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01)

- The Arts Education for All Act would expand arts education and programming to America’s youngest learners, K-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 in education by the National Center for Education Research and the collection of data on arts education by the National Center for Education Statistics.

HBCU Arts Education Act (H.R. 5895) introduced by Representative Alma Adams (NC-12)

- Amends the Higher Education Act to make the following activities allowable uses of HBCU grant funding:
 - Providing financial assistance to students in arts, arts education, and cultural programs;
 - Establishing outreach programs and development offices for arts, arts education, and cultural departments;
 - Providing comprehensive wrap-around services for arts, arts education, and cultural students, including faculty and peer mentorship, work-based learning opportunities, guidance counseling and career advising; and
 - Providing apprenticeships, internships, and fellowship opportunities to arts, arts education, and cultural programs through partnerships with nonprofit organizations.

Equitable Arts Education Enhancement Act introduced by Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-13)

- Establishes a grant program to provide MSIs with funds to support the following activities:
 - Providing financial assistance to students in arts, arts education, and cultural programs;
 - Establishing outreach programs and development offices for arts, arts education, and cultural departments;
 - Providing comprehensive wrap-around services for arts, arts education, and cultural students, including faculty and peer mentorship, work-based learning opportunities, guidance counseling and career advising; and
 - Providing apprenticeships, internships, and fellowship opportunities to arts, arts education, and cultural programs through partnerships with nonprofit organizations.

Reimagining Inclusive Arts Education Act (H.R. 7261) introduced by Representative David Scott (GA-13)

- Directs the Secretary of Education to establish a new Inclusive Arts Education Grant Program that would provide:
 - States or districts funding to promote curricula, best practices, and professional development for arts educators and creative arts therapists to:
 - Increase access and improve inclusion of children with disabilities in arts education programs.
 - Adapt classroom materials and lessons to accommodate children with disabilities.
 - The bill also would define “Creative Arts Therapy” to specifically enumerate music as an available medium and highlight the social and emotional benefits of the arts.