

The Future of Music Education

<https://bit.ly/NAfMEMTPI>



BEFORE THE DEGREE PROGRAM



DURING THE DEGREE PROGRAM



DURING THE FIRST 5 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Challenge

Inequitable distribution of funding, physical resources, and human resources

Solution

Federal policymakers should increase funding for Titles I and IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act to ensure students have equitable access to a well-rounded education that includes music.

Persistent inequities in how students are recruited, auditioned, and enrolled

Higher education should expand audition/interview requirements to be more inclusive of diverse ways of being musical and demonstrating musical knowledge.

Low teacher pay and professional expenses (student loan debt, certification, etc.)

Federal, state, and local policymakers should position salaries, raises, bonus structures, tax credits, and other financial incentives to entice new music teachers into the field.

Challenge

Participation, transportation, and private instruction expenses

Solution

School districts should offer free or highly subsidized rental programs and private lessons for students from low-income families.

Lack of alignment between university program content and professional expectations in PK12 instruction

Higher education should revise music education curriculum to be more culturally sustaining, equitable, and reflective of the needs of schools and communities.

Isolation stemming from geography or being the only music teacher in a building

State and national music education organizations should promote the institution of affinity groups to serve as safe spaces in which educators' identities are reflected and open and honest discourse is fostered.

Challenge

Limited curricular offerings

Solution

Music educators should create new courses that engage a wider array of students.



Lack of funding and time for meaningful professional development and mentoring.

State and national music education organizations should prioritize programs, professional development, and conferences for new-career music educators.