

Resources on Disability and Poverty from the National Association for Music Education (NAfME)

On November 15, 2025, NAfME hosted a virtual Symposium on Music Education and Students with Disabilities and/or Living in Poverty. The articles and webinars listed below—drawn from NAfME’s publications and professional development offerings—have been compiled as an extension of this event, highlighting key issues related to disability and poverty and their implications for music education. These selected resources are arranged as follows:

- *Teaching Music* Magazine Articles
- NAfME Academy Webinars
- NAfME Blog Articles
- NAfME Journal Articles

Teaching Music Magazine Articles

These articles are available as a free resource to NAfME members. To access the digital archive, visit <https://nafme.org/publications-resources/teaching-music/>. If you are a nonmember with a particular interest in a specific article, please contact Laura Reed at laurar@nafme.org for assistance.

Disability

- Preparing Tomorrow’s Music Educators to Reach and Teach Every Student (October 2025)
- Jam Session: How do you set up your teaching space to be a welcoming place for ALL students? (August 2025)
- A Case for Increasing Inclusion in Music Classrooms (October 2022)
- Tips for Teaching Students with Disabilities (January 2022)
- Relaxed Performances: Igniting Collaboration and Community (August 2021)
- Knowing the Difference, as You Make a Difference with Special Learners (August 2020)
- Making Music for Everyone (October 2019)
- Developing the Whole Musician (August 2019)

Special Needs

- What’s in a Label? An Inclusive Person-First and Strength-Based Approach (January 2025)
- Finding the Key to the Lock (January 2024)
- Special Education Paraprofessionals: Avenues for Collaboration (October 2023)
- Three ADHD-Informed Teaching Strategies for the Ensemble Setting (August 2023)
- All-Inclusive (October 2021)
- Elementary Music Teacher Experiences Training and Collaborating with Paraprofessionals (August 2021)
- Bridging, Buffering, and Building Policy in Our Schools (October 2020)
- United Sound: Putting Passion to Practice (April 2020)
- Developing the Whole Musician (August 2019)

Poverty

- Optimizing Transfer Pathways: Helping Music Majors Thrive in the Transfer from Two-Year to Four Year Colleges (October 2025)
- Advocating for Access and Opportunity: Importance of the Recorder (October 2023)
- The Power of One (April 2023)
- Predictors of Taking Elective Music Courses in Middle School among Low-SES, Ethnically Diverse Students (August 2020)
- Who Enrolls in High School Music? A New National Profile (April 2020)

NAfME Academy Webinars

The NAfME Academy is a free resource for NAfME members and is also available to nonmembers by paid subscription. Visit <https://nafme.org/professional-learning-events/nafme-academy/>. To access the webinars, make sure to first subscribe to the NAfME Academy (it is free for members, but everyone must subscribe), then click on the link below and log in using your normal NAfME login credentials.

- A Place for Everyone: Embracing Learner Variability in Choir, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=191>
- A Thousand Tiny Cuts: Overcoming Implicit Bias to Promote Belonging, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=165>
- Meaningful Collaboration: Supporting Students with Disabilities, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=307>
- Making Music for ALL Students, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=240>
- Tools to Aid in Reading Notated Music for Instrumental Musicians Demonstrating Traits of Dyslexia, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=238>
- Creating Neurodiverse Ensembles, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=327>
- Beyond Inclusion: Universal Design in the Elementary Music Classroom, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=364>
- Music for All: Engaging All Learners in the Accessible Music Classroom, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=314>
- Hop Hop, Neurodivergence, and the Music Classroom: A New Groove, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=338>
- Music Teachers, Music Therapists, and Professors, Working Together for Children, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=329>
- Accessible Music Education Strategies to Reach Every Student, <https://nafme.maplelms.com/course/view.php?id=354>

NAfME Blog Articles

- [Creating Music with a Neurodiverse Population: 3 Strings Is Dismantling Music Education Inequality](#). By Ruth LeMay, NAfME Council for Guitar Education North Central Division Representative, February 17, 2023. This article first appeared in the journal of the Guitar Foundation of America (GFA), [Soundboard, vol. 48, no. 3 \(September 2022\)](#).
- [Using a Comprehensive Arts Education Model to Meet the Needs of Neurodiverse Students in Arts Education](#). By NAfME Members Brandon Roeder and Eve Snyder, November 4, 2022. First presented at the “NAfME is ME!” 2022 NAfME National Conference in National Harbor, Maryland.
- [Coping with Hearing Loss in a Music Education Setting: Teacher and Student](#). By NAfME Member Edward J. Ercilla, October 3, 2022. First presented at the “NAfME is ME!” 2022 NAfME National Conference in National Harbor, Maryland.
- [Equity and Inclusion—Invisible Barriers to Learning: Why Are They Doing That in Music Class?](#) By NAfME Member Joanie Calem, June 16, 2021. First presented during the NAfME 2021 PreK–12 Learning Collaborative in February 2021.
- [Teaching Music Remotely: Strategies for Students with Disabilities](#). By NAfME Member Ellary A. Draper. This article also appeared in the April 2021 issue of [General Music Today](#).
- [Utilizing Music Experiences to Enhance Social Interaction: A Look at Autism in the Music Classroom](#). By NAfME Members Adam Dalton and Briana Nannen, September 23, 2019.
- [Embracing Human Difference in Music Education: Suggestions for Honoring Diversity in Music Classrooms](#). By NAfME Members Mara E. Culp and Karen Salvador, December 21, 2017.
- [Collaborating with Speech-Language Pathologists: 11 Ways to Use Music to Improve Speech Sounds](#). By Mara E. Culp, MME, and Barbara Roberts, MS, CCC-SLP, October 13, 2015.
- [Engaging Diversity in Music-Making and Teaching](#). By NAfME Member Alice M. Hammel, February 6, 2019.
- [Amplify the Future of Music: Opening Doors for All Students](#). By NAfME Past President Denese Odegaard. Presented at the 2019 NAfME National Conference, February 1, 2019.

NAfME Journal Articles

NAfME publishes five peer-reviewed journals:

- *Music Educators Journal (MEJ)*
- *Journal of General Music Education (JGME)*
- *Journal of Music Teacher Education (JMTE)*
- *Journal of Research in Music Education (JRME)*
- *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*

Selected articles from NAfME's journals are arranged here under the following keyword headings:

- Disability
- Poverty, Classism, Access
- English Language Learners, Immigrant Students
- Trauma

Access to the full text of these articles is available as a free resource to NAfME members. Visit <https://nafme.org/publications-resources/journals/>. To access these articles, first log in to your NAfME account, then the links below will direct you to the full article texts. Alternatively, you can navigate to a specific journal's page and search within its contents. If you are not logged in as a member, the links below will direct you to the article abstracts. If you are a nonmember with a particular interest in a specific article, please contact Amy Bradley at amyb@nafme.org for assistance.

Disability

[Creating Space for Students with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities to Construct Meaning in Adaptive Music Classrooms](#) (2025)

Cameron R. Siegal

Journal of General Music Education

[Dyscalculia and Music Learning: Helping Students with Mathematical Learning Disabilities in the K–12 Music Classroom](#) (2025)

Sheerin Hosseini

Music Educators Journal

[Props: Useful Tools for an Inclusive Music Classroom](#) (2025)

Audrey Cardany

Music Educators Journal

[Music Class Participation of High School Students with Disability, Low-Income, or English Learner Statuses in Massachusetts in 2023: Analysis and Applications to Promote Equitable Engagement](#) (2025)

Cameron R. Siegal

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

[Representation of Students with Disabilities in High School Music Courses in the United States](#) (2025)

Amanda R. Draper, Sarah J. Bartolome, and Kenneth Elpus

Journal of Research in Music Education

[A Multiple Case Study of Safe Place Within Two Choirs for Children and Adults with Disabilities](#) (2025)

Elizabeth Cassidy Parker and Bridget Sweet

Journal of Research in Music Education

[Adjudicating Equity in Music Performance Assessments: A Literature Review](#) (2024)

Brian Kaufman, Jonathan Kladder, and Elizabeth S. Palmer

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Identifying Elements of Inclusion: Interviews with Elementary Music Teachers About Their Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (2024)

Ellary Draper, Laura S. Brown, and Judith A. Jellison
Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

It's Not Optional: Implementing IEPs in the Music Classroom (2024)

Rachel Grimsby and Sara Jones
Music Educators Journal

Creating an Accessible and Interactive Online Music-Learning Environment: What Can We Improve, and Where Do We Begin? (2024)

Jian-Jun Chen-Edmund, Marc Harroo, and Dylan Reed-Fuglestad
Music Educators Journal

Supporting Autistic Students and Their Siblings through Inclusive Music Groups (2024)

Meghan Wald and Elaine Bernstorf
Music Educators Journal

Looking Forward: Music, Disability, and Inclusion (2024)

Ellary A. Draper
Journal of General Music Education

Using Technology to Support Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Music Classrooms (2024)

Ellary A. Draper
Journal of General Music Education

"I Want to Be a Better Person and a Better Teacher": Exploring the Constructs of Race and Dis/ability in a Music Educator Collaborative Teacher Study Group (2024)

Erika J. Knapp
Journal of Music Teacher Education

Perspectives and Expertise of Secondary Ensemble Music Educators with ADHD (2024)

Erin J. Hopkins
Journal of Music Teacher Education

Supporting Executive Function Skills in Music Education: Strategies for Students with Disabilities (2023)

Ellary A. Draper and Andrea Cevasco-Trotter
Journal of General Music Education

Fostering Trust in Music Classrooms: A Review of the Literature (2023)

Karin S. Hendricks, Diana R. Dansereau, Betty Bauman-Field, and Cheryl M. Freeze
Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

We Teach the Child, Too: A Survey of Wisconsin Music Educators' Use of IEPs (2023)

Sara K. Jones
Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Inside Inclusive Elementary Music Classrooms: Teachers and Their Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (2022)

Laura S. Brown, Ellary A. Draper, and Judith A. Jellison

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Universal Design for Learning in a Music Camp: Perspectives and Musical Self-Efficacy of Children with Disabilities (2022)

Olivia Swedberg Yinger et al.

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Working Together: Peer Interactions to Support Students with Disabilities in the Music Classroom (2022)

Ellary A. Draper

Journal of General Music Education

Connecting to the General Curriculum: Supporting Nonmusic Goals for Students with Disabilities (2022)

Ellary A. Draper

Journal of General Music Education

Thinking Vertically: Facilitating Transition for Students with Disabilities (2021)

Ellary A. Draper

Journal of General Music Education

Teaching Music Remotely: Strategies for Students with Disabilities (2021)

Ellary A. Draper

General Music Today / JGME

Culturally Responsive Teaching as a Method for Teaching Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders in the Music Classroom (2021)

Christina J. Sisson

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Academy of Music and Arts for Special Education (AMASE): An Ethnography of an Individual Music Instruction Program for Students with Disabilities (2021)

Amanda R. Draper and Sarah J. Bartolome

Journal of Research in Music Education

Music Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in a Full-Inclusion Context (2021)

Amanda R. Draper

Journal of Research in Music Education

Music Teacher Education Program Practices: Preparing Teachers to Work with Diverse Learners (2021)

Mara E. Culp and Karen Salvador

Journal of Music Teacher Education

Individual Education Programs: What Music Teachers Need to Know When Working with Students with Disabilities (2020)

Ellary A. Draper

General Music Today / JGME

Looking to the Past to Look Into the Future: Disability Rights (2020)

Ellary A. Draper

General Music Today / JGME

Including Students with Severe Disabilities in Music Classrooms (2019)

Ellary A. Draper

General Music Today / JGME

Peer-Interaction Strategies: Fostering Positive Experiences for Students with Severe Disabilities in Inclusive Music Classes (2019)

Ellary A. Draper, Laura S. Brown, and Judith A. Jellison

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

“Anything Is Better than Nothing!” Inservice Teacher Preparation for Teaching Students with Disabilities (2019)

Rachel Grimsby

Journal of Music Teacher Education

Effects of Disability Type, Task Complexity, and Biased Statements on Undergraduate Music Majors’ Inclusion Decisions for Performance Ensembles (2018)

Charles R. Robinson, Melita J. Belgrave, and Daniel J. Keown

Journal of Music Teacher Education

Navigating the Labels: Appropriate Terminology for Students with Disabilities (2018)

Ellary A. Draper

General Music Today / JGME

Teaching Tolerance in the Music Classroom (2017)

Alice-Ann Darrow

General Music Today / JGME

“I Dream a World”: Inclusivity in Choral Music Education (2017)

Rhonda Fuelberth and Christy Todd

Music Educators Journal

The Relationship Between Phonological Awareness and Music Aptitude (2017)

Mara E. Culp

Journal of Research in Music Education

A Narrative of Two Preservice Music Teachers with Visual Impairment (2016)

Elizabeth Cassidy Parker and Tami J. Draves

Journal of Research in Music Education

Observations of Children with Disabilities in Four Elementary Music Classrooms (2016)

Ellary A. Draper

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Learning From Parents of Children with Disabilities (2016)

Donald M. Taylor

Journal of Music Teacher Education

Students With Disabilities: Using Music to Promote Health and Wellness (2015)

Alice-Ann Darrow and Lorna Segall

General Music Today / JGME

Teaching Children with Disabilities: Preparation Through State Music Educators Association Conferences (2015)

Kimberly VanWeelden and Laura Meehan

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

A Comparative Case Study of Learning Strategies and Recommendations of Five Professional Musicians with Dyslexia (2015)

Kent Peter Nelson and Ryan M. Hourigan

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Promoting Social and Emotional Growth of Students with Disabilities (2014)

Alice-Ann Darrow

General Music Today / JGME

Poverty, Classism, Access

Music Education as an Intentional, Transformational Approach to SEL (2025)

Edward Varner

Journal of General Music Education

Confronting the Viability of “Music for All” in the Face of School Privatization Threats (2025)

Peter Miksza and Keri Miksza

Music Educators Journal

Music Class Participation of High School Students with Disability, Low-Income, or English Learner Statuses in Massachusetts in 2023: Analysis and Applications to Promote Equitable Engagement (2025)

Cameron R. Siegal

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Does Music Education Have a Poverty Problem? (2021)

Tina Beveridge

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Is Music Education in Tune With the Pursuit of Equity? An Examination of Access to Music Education in Michigan’s Schools (2021)

Ryan D. Shaw and Amy Auletto

Journal of Research in Music Education

[Equity in Music Education: Back to Class: Music Education and Poverty](#) (2018)

Vincent C. Bates

Music Educators Journal

[Predictors of Taking Elective Music Courses in Middle School Among Low-SES, Ethnically Diverse Students in Miami](#) (2020)

Alenamie Alegrado and Adam Winsler

Journal of Research in Music Education

[Exploring Access, Intersectionality, and Privilege in Undergraduate Music Education Courses](#) (2019)

Samuel Escalante

Journal of Music Teacher Education

[General Music and Children Living in Poverty](#) (2013)

Elizabeth Ann McAnalley

General Music Today / JGME

English Language Learners, Immigrant Students

[Supporting English Learners in Music Classrooms](#) (2023)

Julie Bannerman

Music Educators Journal

[Enriching Spanish-Speaking English Learners' Experiences in the English Music Classroom](#) (2023)

Nabile Galván

Journal of General Music Education

[Music Class Participation of High School Students with Disability, Low-Income, or English Learner Statuses in Massachusetts in 2023: Analysis and Applications to Promote Equitable Engagement](#) (2025)

Cameron R. Siegal

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

[Undocumented Immigrant Status: Implications for Music Education](#) (2023)

Crystal Lynn Gerrard

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

[Music in the Lives of Immigrant Children: A Review of Literature](#) (2022)

Giulia Ripani

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Trauma

[Aligning Culturally Responsive and Trauma-Informed Pedagogies in Elementary General Music](#) (2020)

Carin A. McEvoy and Karen Salvador

General Music Today / JGME

Attachments and Strategies: Music Performance Anxiety, Trauma, and Mental Health Distress Within Music Learning Environments (2025)

Lydia Schoonover

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Trauma-Informed Classroom Management in Music Education: A Literature Review (2023)

Betty Bauman-Field

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education

Behavioral Strategies for Trauma-Informed Elementary General Music Education for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders: A Review of the Literature (2022)

Erin E. Price

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education