



## Federal Programs: Fiscal Year 2027

Central to the NAFME mission of expanding access to high-quality music education for all students is strong federal funding and support. Below are programs and grants for which we urge Congress to increase funding, along with recommended FY 2027 levels, to support a well-rounded education that includes the arts.

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### Expanding Students' Music Education Access

**Title I** — Intended to provide all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps. A national survey of arts educators and administrators found Title I funds to have been used most often to purchase art supplies, instruments, and classroom materials; support supplemental instruction; fund after-school programs; and provide staffing.

- We request this program be funded at **\$18.68 billion** in FY 2027.

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**Title IV, Part A** — A flexible block grant program that supports a well-rounded education (including music and the arts), safe and healthy students, and the effective use of technology. Survey respondents nationwide frequently cited using Title IV-A funds for technology purchases, digital media equipment, instrument upgrades, arts integration initiatives, and safety or facilities improvements.

- We request this program be funded at **\$1.6 billion** in FY 2027.

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**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** — Provides funding for special education services and supports to ensure students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education, including access to music and arts learning opportunities.

- We request this program be funded at **\$16.66 billion** in FY 2027.
- We also request that Congress explore pathways for the federal government to support **at least 40% of the excess cost** of educating students with disabilities.

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**Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers** — A competitive grant program that provides financial support to local communities for after-school, before-school, and summer learning programs for students in low-performing schools.

- We request this program be funded at **\$2.09 billion** in FY 2027.

## Supporting Innovation in Music and the Arts

**Assistance for Arts Education Grant Program** — Promotes arts education for all students by supporting professional development for arts educators, accessible instructional materials, and strengthened partnerships among schools, districts, and arts organizations. In our nationwide survey, respondents indicated using these funds to support professional development programs, partnerships with community arts organizations, curriculum development, districtwide arts planning, and efforts to expand equitable access to arts instruction.

- We request this program be funded at **\$40 million** in FY 2027.
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**National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)** — Regularly awards arts education grants that support direct learning and increased skills in the arts through activities offered by school districts, arts organizations, or community arts groups.

- We request this program be funded at **\$213 million** in FY 2027.
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## Supporting an Experienced Educator Workforce

**Title II** — Supports student achievement by strengthening the skills and expertise of educators and principals, and by increasing the number of effective educators in schools. A national survey revealed that Title II funds were primarily used for professional development, state and national conference attendance, instructional coaching, curriculum development, and specialized training in arts pedagogy.

- We request this program be funded at **\$3 billion** in FY 2027.
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**Augustus F. Hawkins Center for Excellence Program** — Supports comprehensive teacher preparation programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions.

- We request this program be funded at **\$30 million** in FY 2027.
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**Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grant Program** — Funds comprehensive educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education and teaching residency programs for individuals new to teaching.

- We request this program be funded at **\$1 billion** in FY 2027.
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## Supporting Program Infrastructure and Research

**Federal Data Collection and Reporting** — Comprehensive federal data collection and reporting of arts education—including gaps in access, participation, and quality—are essential to ensuring that all students have access to high-quality arts learning opportunities.

We urge the **immediate reinstatement** of federal arts education data collection—previously conducted by the Institute of Education Sciences and the National Assessment of Educational Progress—to address gaps in access, participation, and quality.