

## May 2019 Congressional Meeting

### About NAMM

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) comes to Washington, D.C. every year to assert our collective voice to promote music education as part of a well-rounded education for our students. Our association represents the interests of the music products industry comprised of over 8,000 U.S. member companies and their employees. We advocate for policies that provide access to quality music education programs for our students.

Handouts: (1) NAMM fact sheet, (2) State/congressional district maps outlining NAMM companies and number of employees

### NAMM Support of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Appropriations

We support the concept of a well-rounded education, including music education; state and local decision-making; and continued authorized funding through the congressional appropriations process.

- *ESSA, Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant (SSAEG) Program* provides funding to state and local school districts to expand access to well-rounded subjects. FY 2019 provides current funding at \$1.1 billion. **We urge support to fund this Title IV program at its authorized level of \$1.65 billion in FY 2020 to ensure that the well-rounded goals of ESSA are realized for every child.**
- *ESSA's Title I* supports funding for our nation's most vulnerable children and Title II promotes the effectiveness of our teachers. **We support fulfilling the intent of the law with authorized funding.**
- *The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)* provides competitive grants in every state and congressional district. **We urge ongoing support for our national arts and culture organizations.**

### NAMM Research

This year, NAMM will release new research reports that illustrate the benefits of music education.

- *Success Stories of Title IV, Part A SSAEG Funding:* The NAMM Foundation, together with the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), collected evidence of districts' use of *Title IV, Part A SSAEG* funds for music and arts education. A survey collected data on how school districts are utilizing funds and its outcomes and impact on students and school districts. These findings yield an initial snapshot rather than provide a comprehensive analysis of all school districts in the U.S. General findings indicate that funding is being used in ways that support equity, teacher and student growth, and positive influences on school culture and community. Districts utilizing these funds are fairly split among rural, urban and suburban schools.
- *Making an Impact Through Music Education:* The NAMM Foundation provided music education grants to 70 low-performing schools in the Kennedy Center's Turnaround Arts program, supporting goals for overall school improvement. A study to review the impact of this support yielded information that, in addition to an increase in music learning opportunities and teacher professional development, schools with quality music education showed improvement in overall school climate, student achievement and lower suspension rates.
- *Declaration on Equity in Music for City Students (2017):* The Declaration is presented in collaboration with the Yale School of Music. It summarizes the outcomes of a national symposium that addresses an urgent need for all children, especially those most vulnerable and in challenging learning circumstances in our urban communities, to have the opportunity to learn and grow with music as part of a well-rounded education.

Handouts: (1) Title IV, Part A Report, (2) Making an Impact Through Music Education, (3) Declaration on Equity in Music for City Students

### Best Communities for Music Education

The NAMM Foundation sponsors an annual survey to identify and recognize school districts and individual schools for outstanding commitment to music education with a Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) or SupportMusic Merit Award. This year 623 school districts and 98 schools are being recognized for their outstanding commitment to music education programs. For more information on this annual survey and how school districts and individual schools in your state or Congressional District can complete the survey, visit [nammfoundation.org](http://nammfoundation.org).

Handouts: (1) Press release on 2019 BCME winners, (2) List of winners in your area, (3) Commemorative flag