

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW TO ADVOCATE FOR MUSIC EDUCATION? An advocate for music education enjoys music, studies music, is informed about music, and supports music education in a variety of ways. The following are some suggestions for becoming an effective advocate for music education:

MESSAGE: Know what you want to accomplish. Make your message clear and direct. Align your message with other music and arts education advocates in your local area, region and in New York. Develop a plan to accomplish your goals.

INFORMATION OR SUPPORTING FACTS: Know the background information and the impact of your message. Use NYSSMA Advocacy Tips, and MENC information to stay informed. Use facts and local success stories to support your message.

OPPORTUNITY: Know where, when, and how to advocate. Create opportunities by networking and meeting with policy makers (administrators, school board members, locally elected officials, your state representatives) to implement your plan.

PERSISTENCE: Don't give up. Advocacy is an ongoing process. There will be setbacks, but the players are always changing, so everyday is a new opportunity