



# NYSSMA®

*A State Unit of NAFME, National Association for Music Education*

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TO: NYSSMA Members attending the Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany – March 5, 2018

FROM: Alan Orloff, Government Relations Committee Chairman

Re: Schedule – 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany

## THE SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018 AS FOLLOWS

8:30am	Arrive at the Empire State Plaza – Park in the visitor parking area
9:00am – 9:30am	Orientation Meeting – Meeting Room 6
9:30am – 11:30am	Visits with Legislators. Present your legislator with the NYSSMA tri-fold during your appointed visit. Remind the legislators of the <b>11am concert in the South Gallery of the Empire State Plaza</b> and the evening reception in Meeting Room 6. Let each legislator know if any student constituents are performing and invite them to have a photo taken during the evening reception.
11:30am	CONCERT: All-State Instrumental and Vocal Jazz Ensembles. Performances are held in the South Concourse of the Capitol's Empire State Plaza.
1:00pm – 2:00pm	<b>Lunch, Meeting Room 6.</b> NYSSMA members may invite their legislators to meet them in Room 6 for lunch and informal discussions. Please allow the legislators to get their lunch as quickly as possible as they have afternoon sessions. While only legislators may be invited to lunch, all legislators and staff are invited to the evening reception.
1:30pm – 3:00pm	<b>NYSCAME meeting</b> in Meeting Room 7, behind the Egg
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Continued legislative visits. Remind legislator of the evening reception.
3:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>County Presidents' Meeting</b> , Meeting Room 7 behind the Egg
4:45pm	Meet in Meeting Room 6 to prepare for reception, Empire State Plaza
5:00pm – 7:00pm	<b>Concert and Reception – All State Jazz Ensembles</b>

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*Alan Orloff, Government Relations Chairperson, 17 Cobb Ct., Huntington, NY 11743*

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## **The 45th Annual Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany Information for Legislators – Monday, March 5, 2018**

**Who we are:** The 5,000 members of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA)

**Who we represent:** The 1.8 million school music students of New York State and the households, teachers, and businesses that support their music education.

**Why we are here:** To be advocates for our students, families and members.

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**The music education of all students, pre-K-12, must include a high quality, comprehensive, sequential Music Education taught by a certified Music teacher. ESSA designates Music as a stand-alone subject in every student's "well rounded education".**

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### **We want to tell you that:**

1: NYSSMA has been an integral part of the team that wrote the NY State Every Student Succeeds Act Plan and the new Standards for the Arts. This plan was submitted and approved by the Federal Education Department. We have been "at the table" meeting regularly with the SED Chancellor and our Regents and have already created the training that music teachers will require to implement ESSA once its rollout begins.

2: There has been no State Education Dept. Curriculum Associate in Music Education for 6 years. Please use your influence so that this and all SED Curriculum Associate positions are restored. These positions are critical for ensuring that the State rollout of ESSA is a success. NY cannot afford another disaster like the rollout of "Common Core" now replaced by ESSA.

3: The Governor's budget proposal on Out-year Reimbursement-based aids to School Districts includes a 2% cap on BOCES reimbursements. We fear music would be negatively impacted by this, as BOCES Arts and Education presentations are a vital part of the expanded music programs demanded by ESSA's establishment of Music Education as a "Stand Alone" subject.

4: NYSSMA asks for your support on Assembly Bill A09638/Senate Bill S7643. The Bill would establish a license plate and fund in support of music education. We hope you will join with your colleagues and consider becoming a co-sponsor of the Bill.

***"The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of the nation, is close to the center of a nation's purpose - and is a test to the quality of a nation's civilization." – President John F. Kennedy***

***"I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning." Plato***

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## NYSSMA – WHO WE ARE!

Your Legislative Talking Points sheet identifies us simply as:  
“the 5,000 members of the New York State School Music Assn.”

Here are many more facts for your use about “who we are”:

“The Mission of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA®) is to advocate for and improve music education across New York State by promoting and producing appropriate activities and programs for its membership and students in member school music programs.”

(Approved unanimously by the NYSSMA® Executive Council on December 3, 2008)

NYSSMA is the most significant professional force for music education in the State of New York

NYSSMA is the largest, most successful National Association for Music Education (NAfME) unit in the United States.

Approximately 5000 members, comprised of educators, professionals and music industry representatives proudly belong to NYSSMA.

The music industry in New York State provides thousands of jobs and millions in state tax revenues.

Over 100,000 students participate annually in spring adjudication festivals held all over New York State.

The NYSSMA Winter conference attracts almost 4,000 participants and offers about 190 workshops and showcases.

Over 150 vendors and colleges exhibit at the Winter Conference held in Rochester, NY in November. This annual event is a huge boost for Rochester tourism revenues.

Our All-State performing groups are among the finest in the nation. They rehearse and perform at the NYSSMA Winter Conference. Over 8000 students auditioned for the honor of being an All State musician. Only 886 were selected to participate.

NYSSMA mails its magazine, the School Music News to every NYSSMA member throughout the year and keeps everyone fully informed.

The NYSSMA Manual is the definitive resource for setting standards and expectations for each instrument and voice part at every level of ability. It has been used as a template by states throughout our country. We pioneered “authentic assessment”.

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## Support data for our 2018 Legislative Talking Points

This year's talking points are designed to inform our legislators of all we have accomplished in the past year, a chance to brag and blow our own horns a bit. They are a way to show how we have evolved into a savvy political force from the well-meaning organization that came to the hill unprepared and able to accomplish little more than photo ops. We have changed "What we want" to "We want to tell you that:" as the title of the "asks" section on our Information for Legislators/Legislative Tri-Fold document. Here is the support data for each of the four points.

1 – This is a list of our major political and educational accomplishments. Don't be afraid to brag about them and how hard we've worked to be involved at the highest state levels in order to advocate for our programs. We have been meeting monthly with the SED Chancellor and various regents. We have been an integral part of getting the entire ESSA plan packaged and sent to the FED for approval. We did the lion's share of the work in creating the new New York State Standards for the Arts.

2 - The imminent retirement of Leslie Yolen leaves the State Education Department without any Curriculum Associates at a time where the rollout of ESSA demands strong leaders in these positions. We must restore the Music Curriculum Assistant position if we are to develop the robust music programs demanded by ESSA when it designated Music as a stand-alone subject in a "well-rounded education". For years this position was in the Governor's budget, but the funds were just not released. Last year they were released, but SED has not replaced these vital positions yet. How can SED rollout an entirely new curriculum without Curriculum Specialists? Most legislators will tell you they can't help with SED matters (actually they can) which is why we ask them to "use their influence".

3 - At the last NYSCEA Meeting there was a State Ed presentation on the Executive Budget proposed by the Governor. President Michael Salzman was present and found one of the proposals of particular concern. The Governor is asking for a 2% cap on BOCES Aid back to districts. This is not a reduction of current BOCES reimbursement rates but does mean that these rates can't increase more than 2% per year. Limiting the growth of BOCES Arts in Education programs is in direct opposition to the ESSA concept of building more robust Music Education programs. We all know how important it is to for our students to experience the kinds of presentations we are able to provide through BOCES.

4 - The idea was first seen on Twitter by Joe Owens, Director of Fine and Performing arts for the Mineola School District. He read a tweet about a similar project managed by the Texas DMV. They created special license plates to benefit music education throughout the state. Joe contacted his Assemblyman Ed Ra and before long there were Bills with sponsors in both houses. The Bills have already moved to Committees and support a NYS License Plate reading, *I Support Music Education*. It also includes the creation of an *"I Support Music Education Fund"* at SED. We especially want to urge legislators to sign on as bi-partisan co-sponsors.

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# TEN TIPS

## HOW TO VISIT WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

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### 1. DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Get to know your legislators before meeting. Locate their biographies, background, interests, and voting records. Know what committees they sit on and what bills they sponsor. Preparation leads to success.

### 2. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Legislators keep busy schedules. It is important to have an appointment and to be on time for the appointment. Despite best efforts, legislators often assign their staff to constituent meetings. Don't be frustrated (see # 8).

### 3. FOCUS

Your appointment may be short, so clearly address the issues at hand. Sell the "big picture" and demonstrate how your issues impact the whole community. Provide background materials to refresh the legislator, inform staff and cover details.

### 4. BE POLITE

Be reasonable and respectful. Remember that you are a diplomat for your concerns. Open antagonism and frustration can jeopardize long-term relationships.

### 5. BE ACCURATE

Credibility is key if you want to be taken seriously. If you don't know the answer to a question, don't guess. Let the legislator know you will provide the missing information later.

### 6. MAKE A PERSONAL CONNECTION

Use your firsthand knowledge. Parents, teachers, laborers all bring invaluable experience. Look for opportunities to connect with the legislator, such as a similar upbringing, shared interests, mutual school, common friends.

### 7. SEEK AN ANSWER

Politely ask your legislator for his/her position on the issue. If you are in agreement, discuss ways you can both forward the issue. If you disagree, seek opportunities to address his/her concerns.

### 8. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE STAFF

Legislators trust their staff to filter information, provide sound advice and handle many concerns. Staff are invaluable resources because of their proximity to the legislator – don't underestimate their role.

### 9. FOLLOW UP

Always send a letter of thanks to your legislator. Use this as an opportunity to restate your positions and seek common ground. Of course, thank him/her for any support, and give a gentle reminder of any commitments that were made.

### 10. REPEAT 1-9

Your initial meeting is only the beginning. If legislators never hear from you again, they may lose sight of your views. Continue to provide them with information and insight. Staying involved is the surest way to make your voice heard.





# KEY:

## PUBLIC CORRIDORS

- CONVENTION CENTER
- Convention Hall
- Meeting Rooms 1-7
- Administrative Office

- THE EGG
- Box Office
- Hart Theatre
- Swyer Theatre

## RETAIL/FOOD

- YMCA
- Pastabilities Cafeteria
- Scissor Wizard Hair Styling
- Subway
- Just Jewels Repair
- McDonald's
- Plaza Food Court Cafeteria
- Hutch House Bakery (Starbucks)
- Lark Street Flower Market
- Scott's Hallmark
- American Red Cross
- Peanut Land Express
- Citizens Bank
- Thomas's Famous Shoe Shine
- GHI Family Dental Practice
- Key Bank
- SEFCU Credit Union
- Legislative Gazette
- Capitol Deli Cafeteria
- Liberty Market Cafeteria
- Albany Room Restaurant
- Swan Street Grill
- 29th Floor Cafe
- African Reflections
- Sodexo Catering Office

- STATE OFFICES
- NY Network Broadcast Ctr.
- OGS Plaza Manager, Cultural Events
- Post Office
- Employee Health Services
- OGS Conference Room
- New York State Police
- NYS Deferred Compensation Plan
- OFT Telecommunications
- Office of Minority & Women Owned Businesses
- Employee Assistance Program
- PLAZA VISITOR CENTER & LOVE NY INFORMATION
- Empire State College
- NYS Assembly Payroll & Travel Unit
- NYS Assembly Human Resources
- Vietnam Gallery
- Observation Deck
- Department of State Fire Prevention and Control
- CSEA Local 660
- OGS Food Service Office

- Information
- ATM
- Phones
- Elevators
- Escalator
- Restrooms
- Dining
- Vending Machine
- Bike Racks
- CDTA (public bus depot)
- PARK and PAY Station
- V-LOT Visitor Parking
- Newsstand
- Not Handicapped Accessible
- Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

- ACCESS TO PLAZA LEVEL through the following buildings:
- Corning Tower
- Agency Buildings 1, 2, 3 & 4
- The Egg
- The Capitol
- Cultural Education Center

- CORNING TOWER
- EDUCATION CENTER
- NY State Museum Library & Archives

- THE EGG
- Automated Defibrillator
- External Defibrillator

- \*The Concourses are handicapped accessible, except where noted.

- PLAZA VISITOR CENTER & LOVE NY INFORMATION

- Empire State College

- NYS Assembly Payroll & Travel Unit

- NYS Assembly Human Resources

- Vietnam Gallery

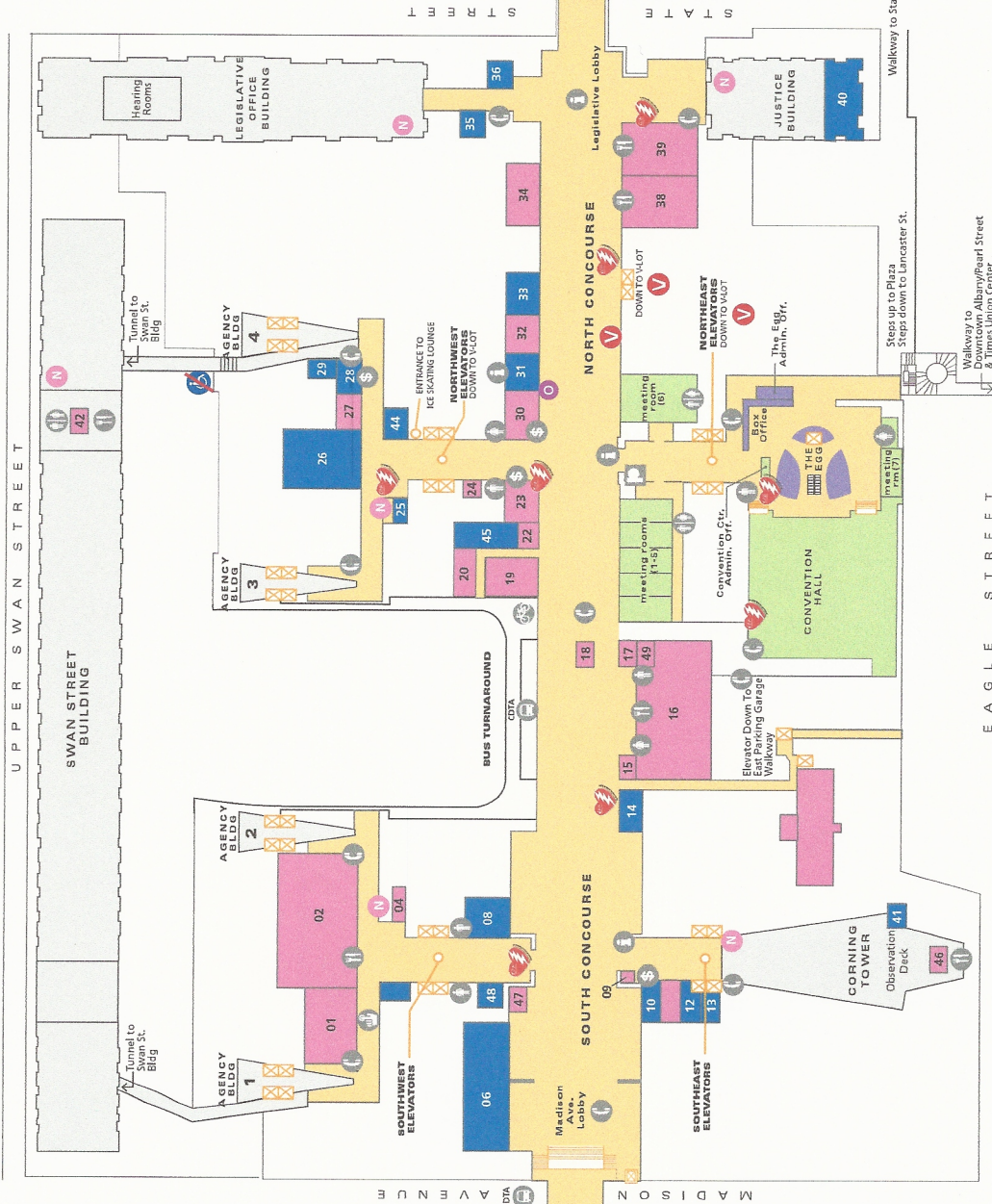
- Observation Deck

- Department of State Fire Prevention and Control

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- OGS Food Service Office

# INDOOR CONCOURSE



ALBANY, NEW YORK