



NYSSMA®

A State Unit of NAFME, National Association for Music Education

The 47th Annual Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany Information for Legislators – Monday, March 2, 2020

Who we are: The 5,000 members of the New York State School Music Assn.

Who we represent: 1.8 million NY school music students and the households, teachers and businesses supporting their music education.

Why we are here: To advocate for our students, families and members.

Music contributes to student achievement in four important categories:

1. Success in society –

“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

2. Success in school and learning –

“Students with coursework/experience in music performance and music appreciation scored higher on the SAT; students in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal and 41 points higher on the math, and students in music appreciation scored 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on the math, than did students with no arts participation.”

College-Bound Seniors National Report: Profile of SAT Program Test Takers. Princeton, NJ: The College Entrance Examination Board, 2001

3. Success in developing intelligence –

Children who take music lessons show different brain development and improved memory over the course of a year, compared to children who do not receive musical training. Musically trained children performed better in a memory test that is correlated with general intelligence skills such as literacy, verbal memory, visuospatial processing, mathematics and IQ”.

Dr. Laurel Trainor, Prof. of Neuroscience and Behaviour at McMaster Univ., 2006

4. Success in life –

“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

We want to tell you that:

1: We ask your support for “Same As” Bill S5770/A9660. This bill moves Music and Arts from Regulatory to Statutory subjects, giving them “Stand Alone” status as established by the Federal standards in ESSA and the New York State Standards for the Arts

2: We ask for your continued support in creating and maintaining high quality, sequential, general music, band, orchestra, chorus, modern band and emerging ensemble instruction taught by qualified, certified music educators for grades pre-K-12.

3. We want you to know all the things that NYSSMA accomplished in your district supporting the 2 million school music students of our state. (Please “Who we are” on the back of this page)

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