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NYSSMA President Joins State’s Re-Opening Task Force
*Planning Continues for 2020 All State Conference and
2021 Festival Season*

Westbury, NY – June 24, 2020 – The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) is proud to announce that Dr. David Brown, president, has been invited to join the New York State Education Department (NYSED)’s *Reopening Schools Task Force* to plan for the re-opening of schools in the fall of 2020.

Dr. Brown will contribute not only as the president of NYSSMA, but as a superintendent of a rural school district. Dr. Brown was named superintendent of the DeRuyter Central School District in 2018.

He will share progress on the work being done by three NYSSMA ad hoc committees. Each is chaired by a NYSSMA Officer and will have representation from each of the fifteen (15) NYSSMA zones:

- **The Advocacy Committee** is charged with collecting and organizing advocacy resources that will be available to all of our membership.
- **The Best Practices in Music Education** committee will examine best practices for online and in-person education as it relates to COVID-19.
- **The Future of Ensembles Committee** includes specialists in band, orchestra and choral education that will gather recommendations and research findings from around the world to serve as a resource to the field on how school ensembles will be able to proceed in the era of COVID19. Social distancing protocols, a better understanding of aerosols, and cleaning and sanitizing procedures for instruments will be included.

To be prepared for a continuation of either distance or hybrid learning, NYSSMA is investigating how the all state winter conference, and spring, 2021 festival season may be held online. While every effort will be made to hold the festival season in-person, as it has been over the last seventy-five (75) years, NYSSMA officials want to be prudent and prepared.

More, NYSSMA has joined other Associations across the country in supporting a national research project investigating COVID-19 and aerosol rates created by singers, wind instruments, and actors. Findings should be available by August.

NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, is the largest state affiliate of the National Association for Music Education. Its mission is to advance music education across New York State for its membership and students in member school programs.

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