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**NYSSMA Takes the Lead by Providing Guidance to Members and School Leaders
On How Music Education is Delivered in Fall, 2020**

Westbury, NY – July 23, 2020 – The New York State School Music Association has taken the lead in providing guidance to member music teachers, boards of education, superintendents and other school district administrators regarding how music classes and ensemble rehearsals can continue this fall.

“School communities across New York State value their music education programs,” said Dr. David M. Brown, NYSSMA president. “NYSSMA continues to be on the forefront of advocating for them to ensure a well-rounded education for all students.”

With a unique perspective as the superintendent of the DeRuyter Central School District, Dr. Brown has formed three ad hoc committees to prepare information on a myriad of topics.

The [Advocacy Committee](#) is keeping members informed with clear communication related to New York State’s requirements for music education, guidance on reopening, and scientific studies done by national arts associations and universities.

The [Best Practices Committee](#) is examining the teaching of music in general music classes and ensemble rehearsals in distance learning, hybrid learning, and in-person learning scenarios.

The [Future of Ensembles Committee](#) studied many scientific studies related to the health and well-being of students performing in a school ensemble, as well as the social and emotional component of making music.

“Music educators teach a curriculum aligned to the New York State Standards in the Arts and we are integral to the well-rounded education the children of New York deserve,” Dr. Brown said. “We can teach music in-person or in a hybrid or remote scenario. The curriculum ensures an equitable and sequential standards-based instruction taught by highly qualified and certified music teachers. The process may change, but the outcomes will remain the same.”

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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