



# NYSSMA®

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

## 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany

### Asks 2024

1. **NYSSMA advocates for every district to have the ability to provide access to a high-quality, sequential music education for every student. For this reason, we are advocating for full restitution of School Foundation Aid.**
  - a. Governor Hochul proposes changes to the **Foundation Aid** formula that could leave hundreds of schools with less state aid next year.
  - b. Governor Hochul has proposed in her budget to end "**hold harmless**." Hold harmless ensures that districts **do not** receive less Foundation Aid funding from one year to the next.
  - c. If enacted, the **loss of Foundation Aid** and **removal of "hold harmless"** would result in a 10% average reduction in education aid for 337 school districts across the state. School music programs and arts programs would be affected.
  
2. **NYSSMA advocates to restore the position of Music Associate at the NYSED office of Curriculum and Instruction. For this reason, we advocate for the position to be included within the Governor's 2024-2025 State Budget.**
  - a. Positions for arts associates were included in the last 6 budget cycles, however no one has been hired.
  - b. NYSED and Regents requested funding for positions but Governor Hochul has not included the funding in her proposed budget.
  - c. Please help w/ releasing the funding for curriculum staffing, specifically the hiring of a Music and/or Arts Associate.

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- 3. NYSSMA advocates to restore full funding for the New York State Summer School of the Arts program, and to return to NYSSSA the School of Orchestral and Choral Studies.**
- a. NYSSSA was first funded by NYS in 1976 and budgeting was significantly reduced during the COVID pandemic.
  - b. Three of the seven programs will be reinstated this summer: Theatre, Visual Arts, & Media Art. (not coming back: Ballet, Modern Dance, Orchestral Studies, Choral Studies)
  - c. The Office of Cultural Education has put a request for 1.4 million dollars in their budget for next year which is .4 million over the amount that was requested last year.
  - d. Scholarships and financial aid made the program available to students from every area of the state, representing the full spectrum of New York’s cultural, economic and racial diversity.
  - e. Students may receive academic credit for their participation.
  - f. This program is a unique and special opportunity for students that thrive in the arts.
- 4. NYSSMA advocates for the long-awaited Bills S285 and A1502 which address the omission of music education from the state’s list of recognized academic subjects.**
- a. Currently Music (and the Arts) are designated as regulatory, meaning schools have the option to offer them.
  - b. The federal level **Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA) defines a “well-rounded education” as one that includes Music (and the Arts) along with other academic subject matter.
  - c. We advocate to move Music (and the Arts) from regulatory to statutory designation. (similar to Math, English, Physical Education, etc.)
  - d. This change will ensure that Music (and the Arts) education are incorporated into the public school curriculum for all students in rural, suburban and urban areas, providing equitable access.
- a. Federal Title I funds may be utilized to supplement state and local support for a well-rounded education, including Music (and the Arts).
  - b. Bill sponsors are: Assemblymember - Kimberly Jean-Pierre & Senator - Rachel May

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