



NYSSMA®

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

52nd Annual Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany

Asks 2025

1. **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 2025-2026 State Budget.**
 - a. NYSED curriculum associate positions were eliminated as a result of the recession that occurred in the 2000s. Currently there is no music specialist for the subject area.
 - b. We support the Regents request to restore at least one of the eliminated arts associate positions in the office of Curriculum and Instruction, specifically the hiring of a Music Associate.

2. **NYSSMA advocates for the long-awaited bills (formerly Bills S285 and A1502 for 2024-2025 session) 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 for the subject matter, Music (and the Arts) to be moved from regulatory to statutory designation. (like Mathematics, 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.
 - e. Federal Title I funds may be utilized to supplement state and local support for a well-rounded education, including Music (and the Arts).
 - f. 2024-2025 Bill sponsors were: Assemblymember - Kimberly Jean-Pierre & Senator - Rachel May

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 held this summer: Theatre, Visual Arts, & Media Art. (there will be no Ballet, Modern Dance, Orchestral Studies or Choral Studies)
 - c. NYSSMA supports the Regents' request for \$2 million to restore these unique programs
 - 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 thanks our legislators for the support they have offered over the years to support music education opportunities for all of New York State's students.**