



# NYSSMA®

A State Unit of NAFME, National Association for Music Education

## **Foundation & Expense Based Aid**

### **The Ask:**

1. ***Are you willing to support full restitution of School Foundation Aid?***

**Background:** *The Governor has proposed levels of foundation aid funding, inflationary factor formulas, and hold harmless eliminations which will decrease aid to 337 school districts (averaging over 10% of their funding.*

*Enter local examples here.*

*Since state law omits any reference to the arts and music as essential components in a well-rounded education, these cuts represent an existential threat to arts education, already inconsistently delivered across the state.*

*We support continued full funding of foundation aid, a formal review of funding formulas, and full funding of expense-based aid.*

*Access to a comprehensive, sequential arts education provides unrivaled opportunities for Academic, Applied, Cultural, and Social Emotional Learning.*

*The power of arts has been specifically recognized by the NY State Regents in their Report on Graduation Measures.*

*The Governor, in her State of the State noted that: In every corner of the state, (the arts) provide programming that supports healthier, happier, more connected, engaged, and equitable communities.*

*The quality of education should not be constrained by zip-code, socio-economic standing, or demographics. Full funding of Foundation and Expense-based aid is the only sure path to equity.*

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### **The Ask:**

1. ***Are you willing to support and institute the NYS Regents request for an increase of \$10 plus an inflationary index for future years to correct inflationary stabilization for operational costs of program and staffing??***

**Background:** *The Cultural Education Office of the NY State Education Department oversees the operations of the State Museum, State Library, State Archives, Public Broadcasting, the NY State Summer Schools of the Arts. It is funded through a mortgage fee, which has been frozen at \$20 for over a decade. The result of this fixed ceiling has been a steady decline in staffing and programs. The NY Regents are seeking an increase of \$10 plus an inflationary index for future years, in order to make up for the decline and stabilize services.*

*Cultural Education plays an increasingly significant role in ensuring that our students graduate prepared for career, college, and citizenship. In these divisive and uncertain time, cultural literacy plays a vital part in students' self-awareness and self-confidence and community harmony.*

*Provide examples of the impact of NYSSSA, State Museum, State Library, Archives, Public Education.*

*This may seem a small, even mere housekeeping, matter in a \$233 billion budget, but we can assure you that such adjustments will go a long way to ensuring that no student is denied the creative opportunities (s)he deserves.*

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### **Benefits of Both – What We Know: Students involved in high quality sequential arts and music education:**

- *Garner, develop and maintain the 21<sup>st</sup> Century soft skill sets being sought by employers in today's job market.*
- *Develop life-long intrinsic positive social and emotional wellness processes.*
- *Have better critical and creative thinking skills so important to long term economic and personal success.*
- *Have exceptional communication skills.*
- *Outscore students globally in mathematics and sciences in standardized testing.*
- *Learn, participate in and provide community service.*
- *Possess and demonstrate cultural and civic understanding.*
- *Ensure skills necessary for a well-rounded, informed citizen of society.*
- *Establishes knowledge of empathy, kindness, and cultural awareness for social-emotional well-being.*
- *Provides a stable and well-equipped future workforce for economic stability in NYS.*

**Created By NYS Alliance For Arts Education**

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