

N  
e  
w  
s  
  
R  
e  
l  
e  
a  
s  
e

**CONTACT:** Dr. John J. Gallagher  
631-294-2279 (cell)  
[PR@nyssma.org](mailto:PR@nyssma.org)

## New Executive Director Announced

*NYSSMA Welcomes Returning Past-President and Retired School Superintendent*

Westbury, NY – May 1, 2025 – The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. David M. Brown as executive director of the nation’s largest state association for music education effective May 15, 2025.

Dr. Brown will report to NYSSMA’s executive council on the finances and logistics of the many activities sponsored by the association including the All State / Winter Conference in Rochester, NY. This annual event offers more than 150 professional development sessions for music educators, and highlights the work of 900 student musicians performing in eight all state ensembles. More, he will coordinate with the Office of General Services in Albany to prepare for Joseph R. Sugar Advocacy Day in Albany; and plan for the spring festival season, which includes more than 150 solo and major organization festivals throughout the state.

Dr. Brown is an active member of NYSSMA, and has held several leadership positions including president from January, 2020 to December, 2021. He retired as superintendent of the DeRuyter School district in 2023, and as director of graduate education at LeMoyne College in 2025. He will begin a two-year term as the president of the eastern division of the National Association for Music Education on June 3, 2025.

“I am proud that the executive council places faith in my abilities to lead this wonderful organization that benefits our teacher-members and the music education of students across New York State,” Dr. Brown said.

Dr. Brown has an undergraduate degree in Music Education and Theatre from Nazareth College, a Master of Music degree from Ithaca College, and an advanced degree in Public School Administration from SUNY Brockport. He was awarded his doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher University in 2019.

He lives in Skaneateles with his wife, Melissa, and their two children, Sophia and Nicholas.

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.

# # #



Dr. David M. Brown  
Executive Director

NYSSMA grants permission for use of  
photograph in media placements.

Follow Us @OfficialNYSSMA

