



NAMM – the National Association of Music Merchants

NAMM is a not-for-profit association of 10,300 member companies promoting the pleasures and benefits of making music and strengthening the \$17 billion global music products industry. Founded over 120 years ago as a mission driven organization, we believe that every child has a deep desire to learn music and recognized right to be taught. NAMM members are in every state and Congressional district (see maps). We are in Washington this week to discuss the importance of access to music and the arts as part of a well-rounded education and to promote the positive impact of music on student performance, retention and graduation rates.

NAMM Salutes Congress for Passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act

Passage of this landmark reauthorization signed into law last year fixes problems with the old NCLB law and opens the door for providing students with access to a well-rounded education.

- New definition of "well-rounded education" includes Music for the first time in federal law
- Provides flexibility in Title 1 funds---and state/district decision making---to support a well-rounded education, including music
- Allows funds to support more professional development for music educators as part of well-rounded education
- Allows states to choose multiple measures to show progress in schools, such as student and parental engagement and school culture/climate
- Consolidates current programs into new formula block grants to school districts where at least 20% of funds must be used to support well-rounded programs, including music

NAMM supports FY2017 funding of programs authorized by new ESSA law

- Congressional appropriations for education must ensure faithful implementation of the intent of the law in prioritizing funding, particularly for Education for the Disadvantaged Program (Title I-A) and Title IV-A (the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants program).

- We support the request in the President's budget for Title I funding which increases the amount by \$450 million by folding the School Improvement Grant program into Title I.
- We support funding for Title II state grants though the amount in the President's budget request reflects a \$100 million reduction below the FY2016 funding level. We would recommend at least the FY2016 funding level of \$2.35 billion.
- We support an appropriation of \$30 million for the Assistance for Arts Education programs in the FY 2017 education appropriations bill, authorized under Title IV of ESSA.

NAMM Pledges to Stay Engaged with Congressional Policymakers

- Continue to work with Members of Congress with visits to our facilities and stores and meetings with our employees to showcase our community involvement.
- Assist with visits for Members of Congress to district schools, particularly those designated as "Best Communities for Music Education" and celebrate the work of school and community to build and sustain music education in the curriculum.
- Continue working locally with NAMM member businesses to inform them of the importance of the new ESSA law passed by Congress and how to serve as advocates in their states and local communities regarding well-rounded education policies and the importance of music education.

NAMM Study Reveals Perceptions of Parents and Teachers on Music Education

The 2015 research study, "Striking a Chord," measures beliefs and attitudes of parents and teachers about music education. Key findings include (see summary brochure):

- Teachers and parents consider music education vital
- They support expanded music education programs
- Parents strongly oppose program cuts; for many, music should be the last thing considered for budget cuts
- Perceived benefits of music education go far beyond music
- Access to music/arts education is extremely/very important to teachers (77%) and parents (64%).

