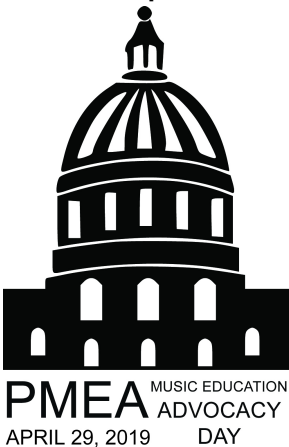




## Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Legislative Recommendations

**PMEA Represents Music Educators, Members of the Music Products Industry and Most Importantly, Students**



- PMEA is a statewide nonprofit organization of over 4,000 members dedicated to promoting the musical development of all Pennsylvanians. The present membership evolved from a small group of band directors dating from 1933.
- Today, the organization includes those engaged in music instruction at all levels, from preschool through college and university, as well as those in the music products industry.
- The organization promotes and supports quality music education **for all students**, through learning and performing as well as promoting and supporting music education in schools and communities. PMEA is affiliated with The National Association for Music Education, NAFME.

### Fundamental Beliefs

PMEA believes music and the arts effectively:

- Engage students in their creative, cultural, aesthetic, intellectual, social, physical and emotional development—indeed, in the development of their identities as students and citizens
- Develop students' skills critical to 21st century learning for success in school and life
- Develop skills integral to the economy of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States

All pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students in Pennsylvania must be guaranteed:

- Music and arts education offered as core curricula
- Music and arts curricula based on a balanced, comprehensive and sequential pre-K-12, standards-based music and arts education
- Music and arts education taught and assessed by certified music and arts educators





## **PMEA Legislative Priorities**

In order for PMEA's fundamental beliefs to become reality in all Pennsylvania schools, PMEA encourages the legislature and the Governor to be proactive in ensuring that all school districts receive adequate and equitable funding as well as adequate policy support for the well-rounded education of every student which includes music and the arts as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

### **1. Increase in Basic Education Subsidy Funding**

Pennsylvania should increase the Basic Education Subsidy. By increasing the basic subsidy to school districts, Pennsylvania would serve students more effectively by allowing school districts the discretion to use the money as they see fit. We support an increase of \$225 million to the basic education subsidy. We support Governor Wolf's proposal to use \$20 million of an increase in base adjustments for specific school districts. The remaining \$205 million should be provided to schools to use in areas of need determined at the local level and not decided in Harrisburg. Any increase in funding should take into account the rising mandated costs school districts are facing. Beyond the 2019-2020 budget, the General Assembly must provide annual state funding to school districts in an amount, and distributed through a formula, that supports the principles of equity, adequacy, accountability, and predictability. We applaud Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania General Assembly for their work in recent years to increase the basic education subsidy.

### **2. Maintain Funding for School Safety**

Pennsylvania should continue to focus on school safety and allocate \$60 million to the School Safety and Security Fund. Allocating \$60 million would fund these programs at the same level as the 2018-2019 budget year. There is still a need for school safety improvements in Pennsylvania schools and by allocating a dedicated funding stream for school safety, schools will not be pressured to use other state or federal dollars and instead use that money on educational programs.

### **3. Increase the Allocation to the State System of Higher Education**

PMEA supports Governor Wolf's proposal to increase funding to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) by \$7 million. PASSHE schools are a valuable resource to Pennsylvania. Some of the finest music teacher preparation programs are housed in these universities. It is critical to provide funding to support adequate resources to prepare the next generation of music educators.

### **4. PDE Arts Content Advisor / Liaison**

PMEA supports reinstatement of the funded Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) staff position that supervises the development of curriculum and standards in four content areas: *Music, Visual Art, Theatre Dance, and Media Arts*.

The position was removed from the PDE Curriculum staff in the 2011-12 state budget. PDE leadership are encouraged to review key pieces of the recently passed federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for ways to fund this position by way of federally available money. Specifically, Title IV, Section 4104 of ESSA addresses such a possibility.