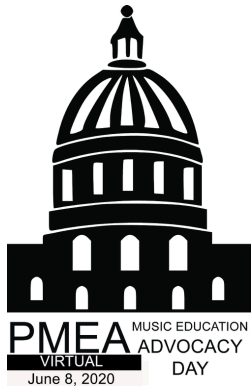




Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Policy Recommendations

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 through inclusion, diversity, access, and Equity - providing programs that actively engage all of our students in the art of music making. PMEA is affiliated with The National Association for Music Education, NAfME.

Through challenging times, including our current reality of educating through a pandemic, PMEA is committed to ensuring all students have access to a quality music education in the safest and most effective form. **Music and arts education is more important than ever to promote the social and emotional well-being of students.**

Fundamental Beliefs

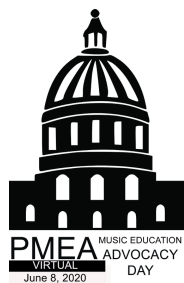
PMEA believes music and the arts effectively:

- 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, the Governor, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the State Board of Education 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. Maintain Basic Education Subsidy Funding

In the extraordinary times we are in, we believe education is more important than ever. The knowledge students receive in school as well as social emotional learning skills gained there are crucial for students. Pennsylvania should maintain the current basic education subsidy funding to school districts so they can continue to offer vital education services, including the potential for continued online instruction, to students in the Commonwealth. Music and arts education are among the vital education areas that local education agencies should offer to all students and maintaining the state basic education subsidy at 2019-2020 levels is a way to achieve that.

2. Fair Charter School Funding

Pennsylvania should adopt a funding formula for brick and mortar, and cyber charter schools that allows these schools to maintain their original intent – a place for innovative education that can be shared with traditional public schools. PMEA calls upon members of the General Assembly and Governor Wolf to rethink the current charter funding structure to allow all charter schools and all traditional public schools to thrive through a funding formula that supports the principles of equity, adequacy, accountability, and predictability for charter school and school districts.

3. 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 and 2019-2020 budget years. 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.

4. Increase the Allocation to the State System of Higher Education

PMEA supports an increase in funding to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). 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.

5. Review Current Pennsylvania Standards in the Arts

The Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania State Board of Education should review content area standards as outlined in 22 Pa. Code, Chapter 4. A review and update of these standards is necessary to bring them in alignment with the current state of education in Pennsylvania and the nation. The Pennsylvania standards should be brought into closer alignment with the 2014 National Core Arts Standards and should include standards in media arts.

6. 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.