



Pennsylvania Music Educators Association

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Dear Superintendent:

Thank you for your continuing work to educate the students in Pennsylvania during the pandemic. We realize the immense pressures you are under from a variety of stakeholders. Your desire to put students first in your decision making does not go unnoticed.

We know you are busy and your time is valuable. We want to highlight two things to you today.

First, we request that you **forward this email to your district federal programs coordinator** as they are the person handling your district's application to use ESSER funds.

Earlier this month, we presented a webinar (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6y76VXV2dg&t=6s>) to show music educators in Pennsylvania what federal ESSER funds are and the process to access those funds. We were thrilled to be joined by a Pennsylvania superintendent and a federal program coordinator. This webinar may be of value to your district's federal program coordinator as they process your district's funds in the coming years.

The webinar spells out possible ways you can use the ESSER funds for music education such as:

- Paying for– in school or after school music education programming
- A learning “camp” to address learning loss
- Purchase of software that assists with in person, hybrid, or remote learning and assessment
- Facility repairs and improvements including proper ventilation
- Instrument sanitizing supplies
- PPE for music classes – masks, bell covers, etc
- Purchase or rental of instruments for students that are financially unable to obtain them
- Purchase or rental of instruments that were typically shared by students but more are needed to avoid sharing
- Professional development for music educators related to in-person learning in a safe way
- Materials needed to set up a classroom with a physical distance between students (sheet music, music stands, media cart, etc.)

Secondly, we want to thank you for finding ways to keep music education happening during the pandemic. We understand the unique challenges of teaching music and remind you about music education mitigation strategies (<https://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/COVID-Safety-Poster.pdf>) and point you to a story from FOX 43 in Harrisburg highlighting music making in school. (<https://www.fox43.com/article/life/family/family-first-with-fox43/music-education-band-safety-instruments-masks-family-first-fox43/521-8747b4fb-9fb9-405d-b5cf-c82f6cd8c60d>).

As always, please consider PMEA a resource for music and arts education in your school district.

Sincerely,

Mark Despotakis
PMEA Director of Public & Government Affairs