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WMEAMUSIC.ORG

WMEA - COVID-19 Statement

It is the position of Wisconsin Music Educators Association that, despite the challenges associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic, all children deserve equal access to a credible and well-rounded education that includes high-quality study of music and the arts, regardless of the mode of delivery in which teaching and learning occur.

Study of the arts, including music, is fundamentally important as it connects people to that which makes us uniquely human. In addition, music and arts education support the social and emotional well-being of students and nurture the creation of a welcoming school environment that encourages students to express themselves in safe and positive ways. Now, more than ever, all Wisconsin students need - and deserve - music and arts education as part of a well-rounded education.

Advocacy Resources and Information

WMEA Position Statement - Music Education for ALL Wisconsin Students

It is the position of Wisconsin Music Educators Association that all children deserve equal access to a credible and well-rounded education that includes high-quality study of music and the arts, taught by certified music and arts teachers. Grounded in standards that highlight the artistic processes *Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting*, the study of music develops knowledge, skills, and dispositions that provide lifelong benefits to students as individuals and members of a global society, as follows:

- Intentional engagement with music leads to a richer and more meaningful life, as it helps students appreciate beauty, express emotion, develop creativity, value themselves and those around them, and connect with the global community.
- The study of music supports crucial brain development and leads to educational outcomes considered essential for college, career, and citizenship readiness, including: heightened social and emotional awareness, elevated engagement and achievement, and enhanced critical thinking.
- The ability to express oneself through music and the arts builds self-efficacy, nurtures and reflects different cultures, and breaks down traditional barriers, emphasizing commonalities and reinforcing that which makes us uniquely human.

Music and the arts are essential components of a well-rounded education for all children in Wisconsin. As such, support for music education is critical, for the well-being of our students and the welfare of our society.



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Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) - see p.459

The Every Student Succeeds Act, signed into law by President Obama on December 10, 2015, enumerates music and the arts as part of a well-rounded education and specifically articulates that music should be a part of every child's education, no matter their personal circumstance.

Wisconsin DPI Administrative Rule PI 8.01 - see p.21

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Administrative Rule PI 8.01 articulates:

"...music instruction shall be provided for all pupils in grades kindergarten through 6 and shall be performed by or under the direction of a licensed music teacher. Music instruction including general music, vocal music, and instrumental music shall be available to all pupils in grades 7-12 and shall be taught by a licensed music teacher."

2019 Wisconsin Act 85 and 2019 Assembly Bill 67

On February 5, 2020 Wisconsin Governor Evers approved 2019 Wisconsin Act 85 (formerly Assembly Bill 67), which:

"... requires the Department of Public Instruction to include in the annual school district and school accountability report, commonly referred to as school and school district report cards, the percentage of pupils participating in music, dance, drama, and visual arts. Under the bill, DPI must include this information for each high school and school district and must also include the statewide percentage of pupils participating in each subject. The bill specifies that this information may not be used to evaluate a school's performance or school district's improvement."

Related Websites

[Wisconsin Music Educators Association \(WMEA\) - wmeamusic.org](http://wmeamusic.org)

[Wisconsin Music Strong - wimusicstrong.wsmamusic.org](http://wimusicstrong.wsmamusic.org)

[WMEA Advocacy Committee - wmeamusic.org/ac](http://wmeamusic.org/ac)

[WMEA Music Standards - wmeamusic.org/standards](http://wmeamusic.org/standards)

[Wisconsin School Music Association \(WSMA\) - wsmamusic.org](http://wsmamusic.org)

[Wisconsin Foundation for School Music \(WFSM\) - foundation4schoolmusic.org](http://foundation4schoolmusic.org)

[National Association for Music Education \(NAfME\) - nafme.org](http://nafme.org)

[National Association for Music Merchants \(NAMM\) - nammfoundation.org](http://nammfoundation.org)

[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction \(DPI\) - dpi.wi.gov](http://dpi.wi.gov)