



## ADVOCACY TALKING POINTS Spring 2017

- The state of Michigan is **one of only five states** without an instructional mandate for elementary music. School districts in the state of Michigan are therefore under no obligation to provide consistent, sequential music education experiences in elementary school, a crucial stage in children’s musical development.
- There are TWO bills currently proposed in the MI House/Senate to require K-5 general music instruction. HB 4349 and SB 0198 would authorize best practice guidelines for K-5 general music contact time, teacher certification requirements, and for the elementary music classroom-teaching environment.
- Educators with an all-subjects certification (K-8) are considered "qualified" to teach music in Michigan elementary schools, as compared to music certified (JX or JQ) teachers who spent 4+ years specifically studying music education at the collegiate level.
- MMEA is currently working with the MI Department of Education to close the K-8 All Subjects certification loophole.
- Some music educators in Michigan are currently being evaluated on student test scores and other non-music data. MMEA is currently meeting with the MI Department of Education to recommend teacher evaluation models that are designed specifically for music/arts educators.
- Congress recently passed a new version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes important new and revised language that clearly states that students should have opportunities to engage in a broad curriculum as part of a “well-rounded” education. The new language clearly states that music should be a part of every student’s education!
- The new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains provisions for Title I, Title II & Title IV funds—all of which can be used to fund music education programs in Michigan.
- MMEA is currently meeting with the MI Department of Education to develop plans for ESSA Title I, II & IV funds.
- Music classes provide places where ALL students can be successful. Music allows students to be creative & innovative. Participation in an ensemble promotes teamwork. Participation in music helps to develop the WHOLE student. Participation in music empowers students to appreciate artistic works.