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**Music Educators from Across New York State Advocate Virtually During  
50<sup>th</sup> Annual Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany**

**Annual Event Kicks Off Music In Our Schools Month**

February 28, 2023 - Westbury, NY – New York State legislators will be visited virtually by music educators and administrators from across the state on Monday, March 6, 2023 during NYSSMA's 50<sup>th</sup> annual *Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day* in Albany.

"Due to scheduling conflicts with the legislature this year, NYSSMA and its members look forward to meeting virtually with our state leaders and continue our efforts in advocating for all students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelfth to receive a well-rounded education. This includes a high-quality, comprehensive, and sequential music education" said Russ Faunce, NYSSMA President.

*Music In Our Schools Month* originated in New York State in 1973 as a single day concert at New York City's Lincoln Center. Created by the New York State School Music Association, it was one of the first public events held to support music education programs throughout New York State.

It was named after the late Joseph R. Sugar, who served as NYSSMA's president from 1980 to 1981, and as NYSSMA's Government Relations Chairperson for many years after. He also served as Eastern Division President of The National Association for Music Education (NAfME), based in Reston, VA.

In 1985, NAfME adopted the idea and now celebrates *Music in Our Schools Month* across America each March.

NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, is in its 91st year of advocacy for music education on behalf of the 1.8 million students across the state, and is proud to be one of the largest state affiliates of The National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

The mission of the New York State School Music Association is to advocate for and improve music education across New York State by promoting and producing appropriate activities and programs for its membership and students in member school music programs.

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