



NYSSMA®

A State Unit of NAFME, National Association for Music Education

S285 & A1502 Information – Equitable Access To Arts & Music Education

The Ask:

1. *Are you willing to support this bill and see it through committee to the legislative floor?*
2. *If so, are you willing to sign on as a co-sponsor?*

What are these S285 & A1502?

- *S285 & A1502 are bi-partisan support companion bills that address the change to the education law, in relation to adding arts and music education into the curriculum for public school students. Currently arts and music are regulatory, meaning schools have options to offer them. This change will ensure that arts and music education are incorporated into the public school curriculum for all students in rural, suburban and urban areas, making arts and music statutory and providing equitable access.*

Sponsorship:

Sponsor: Senator Rachel May

Co-Sponsored by Senators Addabbo, Borello, Cooney, Gallivan, Harckham, Helming, Hinchey, Hoylman, Jackson, Mannon, Myrie, Oberacker, Palumbo, Persaud, Salazar, Sepulveda, Stavisky, Thomas, Weik.

Sponsor: Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre

Co-Sponsored by Assembly Members Angelino, Aubrey, Barrett, Blankenbush, Byrnes, Colton, Cruz, Davila, DeStefano, Dickens, Durso, Forrest, Gallahan, Gandolfo, Glick, Gonzales-Rojas, Goodell, Gunther, Giglio, Jackson, Jacobson, Brown, Kelles, Lavine, Lupardo, Manktelow, McDonough, Mikulin, Morinello, Palmesano, Paulin, Ra, Reilly, Sayegh, Seawright, Silitti, Simon, Simpson, Smith, Steck, Stirpe, Tannousis, Thiele, Zinerman, Havesi, Ramos, Tague

Background:

- *The current law has 12 areas that are considered statutory such as Math, English, PE, etc...The law for grades 1-8 was written in 1951 and the law was amended in 1958 to extend the statute through grades 9-12 as well. Since then, no changes have been made to this law. We are seeking support for this to update this law to be inclusive of arts and music as the only change to this law in 65 years.*
- *Bills seeking this change have been introduced in several prior legislative sessions. We have seen increasing support for this initiative as more legislators have initially agreed to co-sponsor the bills and endorsements have been issued by the NYS School Boards Association, NYS Council of School Superintendents, School Administrators Association of NYS, NYS United Teachers, NYS Parent-Teachers Association, NYS Rural Schools Association and NYS Education Department.*

Is this another unfunded mandate?

- *No. We have worked with resources throughout NYS and learned that all public school districts currently offer arts and music. This amendment to the law will ensure that with the 2% tax cap and other economic factors, devastating cuts to arts and music will not be allowed to occur. Since all public schools already have what we are seeking, this would not create undo financial burden to school districts, administration and the Board of Education.*

How will this be enforced?

- *State Education Department Office of Curriculum Arts Specialists will be able to monitor the continued provision of arts and music instruction.*

Benefits – What We Know: Students involved in high quality sequential arts and music education:

- *Garner, develop and maintain the 21st Century soft skill sets being sought by employers in today's job market.*
- *Develop life-long intrinsic positive social and emotional wellness processes.*
- *Have better critical and creative thinking skills so important to long term economic and personal success.*
- *Have exceptional communication skills.*
- *Outscore students globally in mathematics and sciences in standardized testing.*
- *Learn, participate in and provide community service.*
- *Possess and demonstrate cultural and civic understanding.*

Created By NYS Alliance For Arts Education

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