



NYSSMA®

A State Unit of NAFME, National Association for Music Education

State Budget 24-25 Information – Support of the New York State Summer School of the Arts **NYS FY 2024 Executive Budget: State Operations Appropriations Bill, Page 108, \$1,481,000**

The Ask:

1. *Are you willing to fulfil the original ask of 2024 by increasing NYSSSA by \$1,000,000?*
2. *Are you willing to support maintaining its inclusion in the finalized version of the Budget?*

Budget Background:

- *The NYS Summer School of the Arts was first funded by the State Legislature in 1976 as a site-based, intensive pre-professional training and career development program.*
- *Significant reduction in budgeted funding occurred in 2021 in response to COVID as the program was re-imagined as a regionally-based arts enrichment opportunity.*
- *The currently proposed Governor's budget increases funding for the regionally-based arts enrichment programs AND provides funding to redevelop the site-based program to take place once more in Summer 2025.*
- *We would appreciate support to this support funding in the finalized budget.*

Program Background:

- *Founded in 1976, the NYS Summer School of the Arts provided a multi-week intensive training in Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts at creative hubs in Saratoga Springs and Fredonia.*
- *Admission was through a highly competitive application and audition process to identify tomorrow's leaders in the arts.*
- *Scholarships and financial aid made the program available to students from every area of the state, representing the full spectrum of New York's cultural, economic and racial diversity.*
- *With the arrival of the COVID-19 epidemic in 2020, that summer's program was cancelled.*
- *Going forward from 2021, greatly reduced funding and public health concerns saw the program pivot to a regionally-based enrichment activities provided by local arts institution providers. This served as a tool for stimulating local economies as well as serving a highly diverse pool of student participants.*
- *As the state recovers both fiscally and medically, the Governor's proposed budget envisions the continued support of the regionally-based enrichment activities as well as the reinstatement of the site-based pre-professional programs.*

Benefits:

- *Graduates from NYSSSA are in the forefront of their professions including the arts.*
- *It is virtually impossible to see an arts presentation without seeing a NYSSSA grad. Many students say it is the hardest thing they have ever done and the most important experience in their life, even many years later.*
- *NYSSSA serves as a laboratory for best practices and innovative teaching strategies for high-achieving as well as at-risk students.*
- *The schools are models of excellence, functioning at the highest levels of academic achievement regardless of economic, cultural, demographic and racial backgrounds.*
- *NYSSSA has always been a partner with the most renowned artists and artistic companies in the world.*
- *NYSSSA identifies and trains the next generation of New York's great artists and leaders who contribute to what is a significant portion of the state's gross domestic product.*
- *This program is a New York State treasure and should be provided with full funding.*

Created By NYS Alliance For Arts Education

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