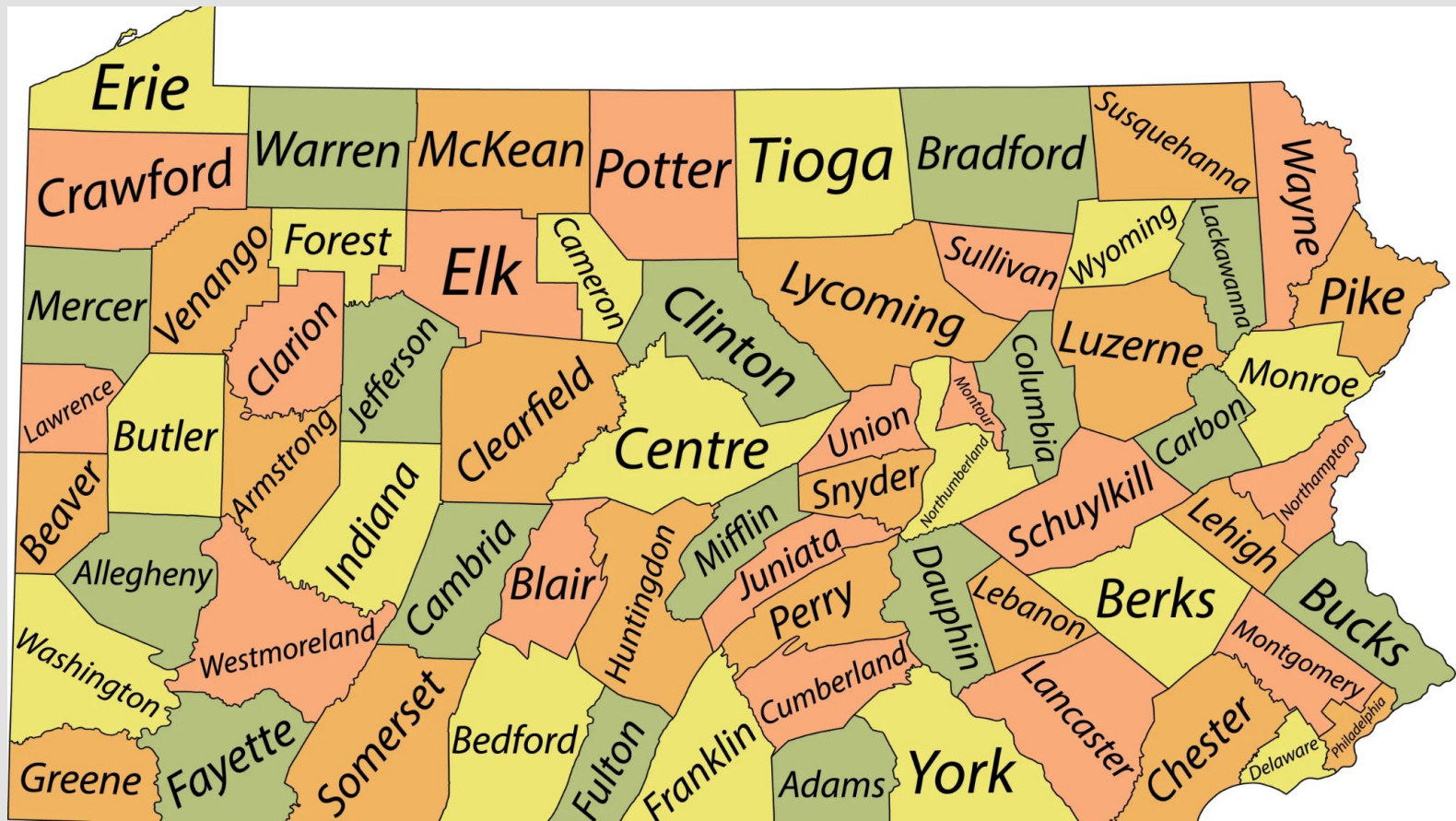




# **COLLECTIVELY IMPACT MUSIC EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA**

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Tuesday, July 16th | Reading, PA



# BATTLEGROUND

<http://battleground.substack.com/>

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## Rural Counties

(pop. Density <750 people per sq. mi.)



## Urban/Suburban Counties

(pop. density >750 people per sq. mi.)



# PA Facts

- 67 Counties
- 1.7 million children in PA public schools
  - 3.4% of 49.4 millions students in USA
  - 7th in the country
- 500 school district (1,516,000 students)
- 164 brick and mortar charter schools (104,500 students)
- 71 Career and Technical Centers (52,700 students)
- 29 Intermediate Units (10,400 students)
- 13 Cyber Charter Schools (57,400 students)
- 2729 Nonpublic/private schools (221,300 students)
- Home Education Programs (40,400)

# PA Facts

- School entities **MAY** develop, expand or improve existing academic standards in the following content areas:

- ... arts and humanities...

- Elementary education:** primary and intermediate levels

- Planned instruction aligned with academic standards shall be provided to every student every year in the primary program. Planned instruction may be provided as separate course or other disciplinary activity.**

- The arts, including active learning experiences in art, music, dance and theatre.

- Planned instruction in the following areas shall be provided to every student every year in the intermediate level program. Planned instruction may be provided or as an instructional unit within another course or other disciplinary activity.

- The arts, including active learning experiences in art, music, dance and theatre.

# PA Arts Education Facts

21-22 School Year

- 67.3% of public school students enrolled in arts classes
- 11.1% of public school students without access to arts education (190,000 students)
- 910,620 enrolled in music education in public schools
  - 72% elementary enrollment
  - 79% middle school enrollment
  - 18% high school enrollment
  - 59% mixed school enrollment
- 3,968 music educators in public schools
- Roughly 3,700 PMEA members (includes college students)

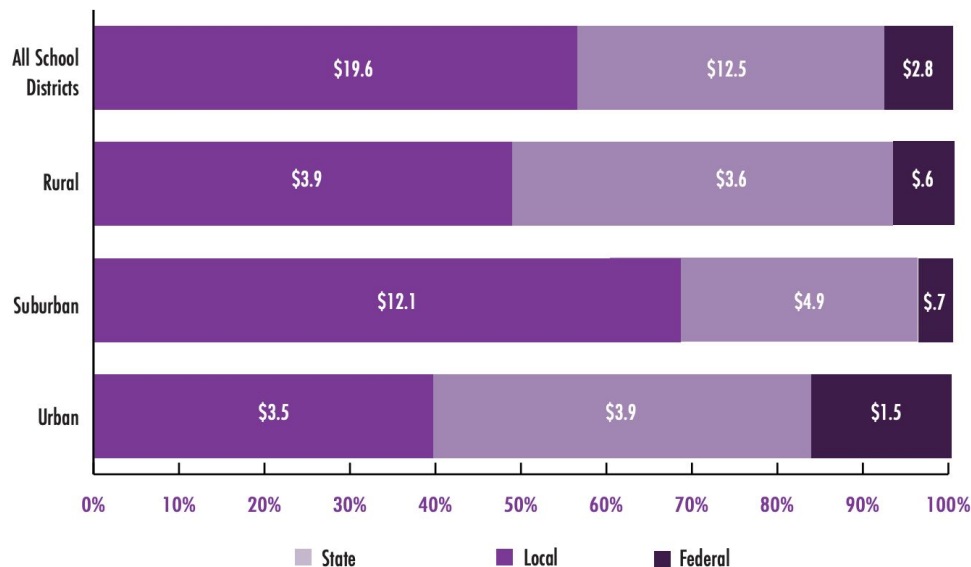


# Funding Issues

## Most school districts reliant on local revenues

For a majority of school districts, especially those in suburban areas, the largest share of their revenue comes from local sources.<sup>8</sup> In fact, for suburban school districts, local revenues are roughly 2.4 times that of state revenues.

**Amount and source of revenue (in billions)**



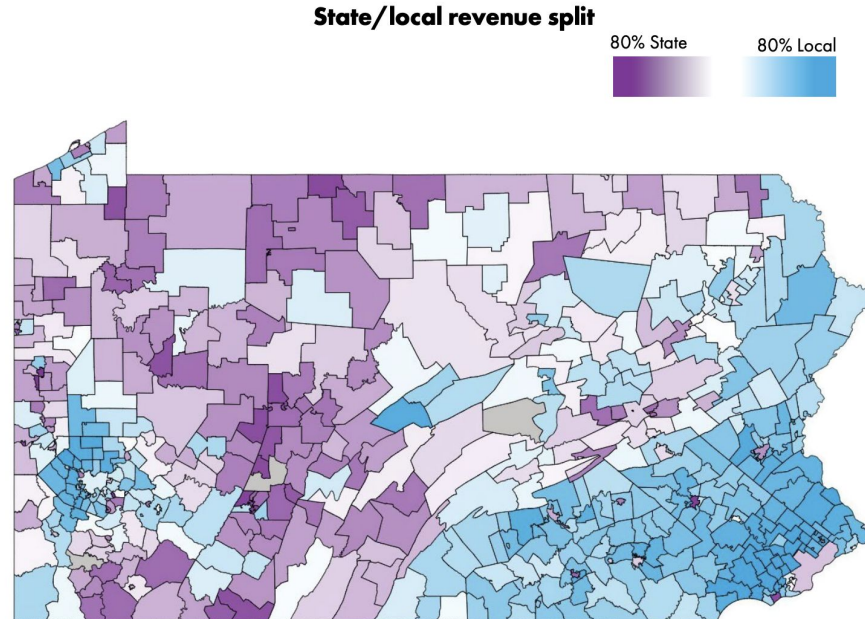
Source: PSBA



# Funding Issues

## Revenue shares vary widely across Pennsylvania

Taking a closer look at the percentage of state and local funding for each school district reveals, in greater detail, the reliance on local revenue for suburban school districts and that many rural and urban school districts are more reliant on the state for funding.<sup>9</sup>



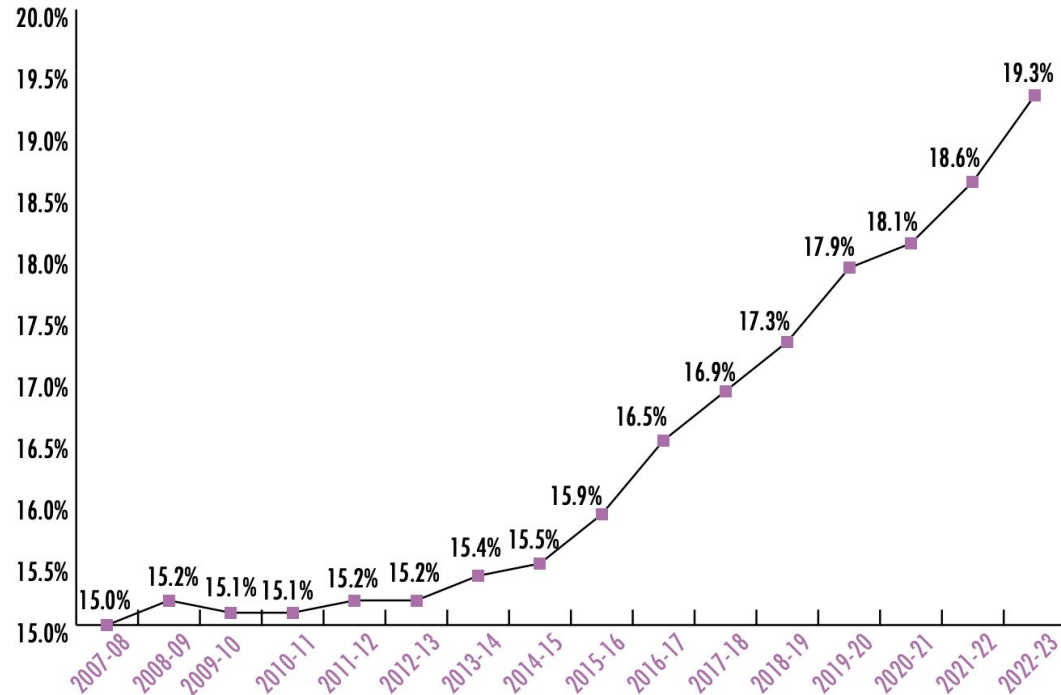
Source: PSBA



## Special education population continues growing

In 2022-23, more than 324,000, or 19.3% of public school students received special education programs and services.<sup>4</sup> This represents a 19.8% increase over the last 15 years.

**Special education as a percent of enrollment**



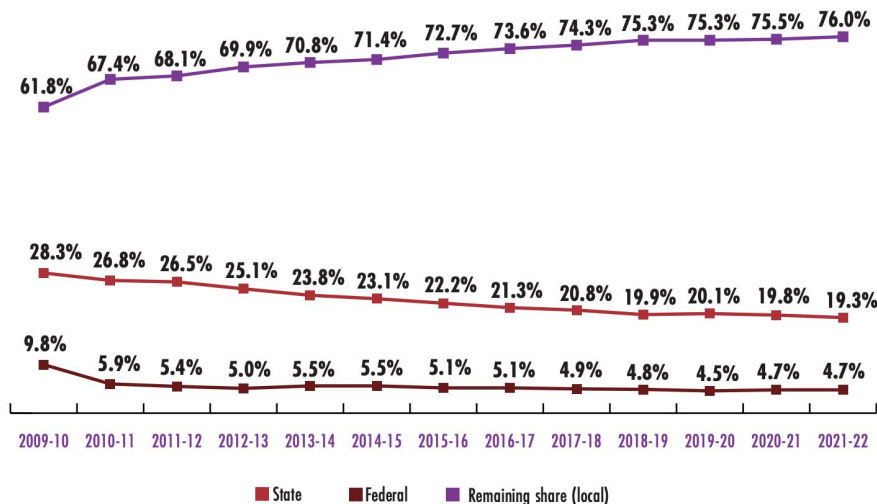
Source: PSBA

# Funding Issues

## State and federal shares of special education decreasing

As state and federal funding for special education have failed to keep up with the pace of growth in expenses, the share of special education expenses covered by state and federal funding have decreased as well. For most school districts, the difference is made up entirely by local funding.<sup>20</sup>

Percent of special education funding by source

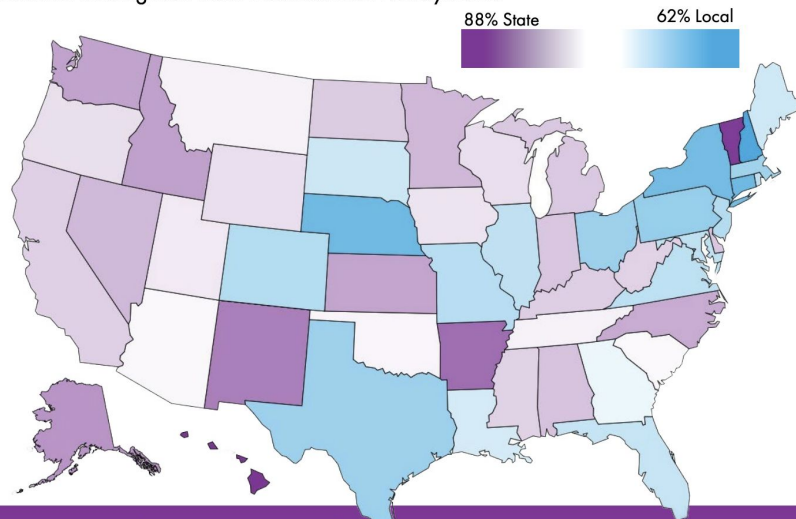


Source: PSBA

# Funding Issues

## Pennsylvania among highest in local share of education funding

From a national perspective, only four other states receive a higher proportion of public education funding from local revenues than Pennsylvania.<sup>10</sup>



**1** New Hampshire  
62.1%

**4** New York  
57.6%

**7** Texas  
53.3%

**2** Nebraska  
58.2%

**5** Pennsylvania  
54.1%

**8** Massachusetts  
53.0%

**44.1%**  
US Total

Source: PSBA



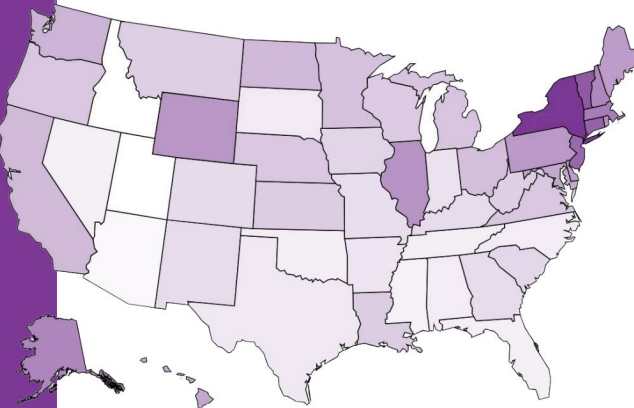
# Funding Issues

## EXPENDITURES PER STUDENT

Rank/State	Expenditure/ Student
1. New York	\$26,571
2. Vermont	\$23,586
3. Connecticut	\$22,769
4. New Jersey	\$22,160
5. Massachusetts	\$20,376
6. Alaska	\$19,540
7. New Hampshire	\$19,443
8. Rhode Island	\$18,365
9. Illinois	\$18,316
10. Wyoming	\$18,143
<b>11. Pennsylvania</b>	<b>\$17,884</b>
US Total	\$14,347

## Pensions push state spending higher nationally

Pennsylvania ranks 11th nationally in terms of current expenditures per student, with \$17,884 being spent.<sup>13</sup> However, \$5,948, or 33%, of that spending is dedicated to employee benefits, including pension costs. Only two other states<sup>14</sup> have a greater proportion of spending per student dedicated to employee benefits.



IN THE COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

William Penn School District;  
Panther Valley School District;  
The School District of Lancaster;  
Greater Johnstown School District;  
Wilkes-Barre Area School District;  
Shenandoah Valley School District;  
Jamella and Bryant Miller, parents of  
K.M., a minor; Sheila Armstrong,  
parent of S.A., minor; Tracey Hughes,  
parent of P.M.H., minor; Pennsylvania  
Association of Rural and Small Schools;  
and The National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored  
People-Pennsylvania State Conference,  
Petitioners

No. 587 M.D. 2014

v.

Pennsylvania Department of Education;  
Kim L. Ward, in her official capacity as  
President Pro-Tempore of the  
Pennsylvania Senate; Mark Rozzi,  
in his official capacity as the  
Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of  
Representatives; Josh Shapiro,  
in his official capacity as the Governor  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;  
Pennsylvania State Board of Education;  
and Dr. Khalid N. Mumin, in his  
official capacity as Acting Secretary  
of Education,

Respondents

BEFORE: HONORABLE RENÉE COHN JUBELIRER, President Judge

OPINION NOT REPORTED

MEMORANDUM OPINION BY  
PRESIDENT JUDGE COHN JUBELIRER

FILED: February 7, 2023



## ARTICLE X.

### *Education.*

SECTION 1. The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public schools, wherein all the children of this Commonwealth above the age of six years may be educated, and shall appropriate at least one million dollars each year for that purpose.

Public schools to be maintained.

Amount appropriated.

SECTION 2. No money raised for the support of the public schools of the Commonwealth shall be appropriated to or used for the support of any sectarian school.

No appropriation to sectarian schools.

SECTION 3. Women twenty-one years of age and upwards, shall be eligible to any office of control or management under the school laws of this State.

Women eligible to school offices.

The education clause of the 1874 Pennsylvania State Constitution, calling for "thorough and efficient" public education.

# Lawsuit Findings

- On February 7, 2023, Commonwealth Court ruled that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed.
- “All witnesses agree that every child can learn. It is now the obligation of the Legislature, Executive Branch, and educators, to make the constitutional promise a reality in this Commonwealth.”
- Adequacy gap in 2018-19: \$4.6 billion – Over \$6 billion now
- Basic Education Funding Commission



# Lawsuit Findings

- What about the PA Fair Funding Formula?
- Enacted in 2016, the formula distributes increases in state funding to school districts based on “weighted students”
- Takes into account population, students in poverty, English learners, and other factors
- Only how to split the pie—not how big the pie should be
- Only 14% of funding goes through the formula

## Great Inequity for Students Among 500 Districts

In 2019-20, current spending per pupil in Pennsylvania school districts ranged from \$11,647 (Hazleton Area) to \$26,984 (Lower Merion)

This means, **in an average classroom of 25 students, a gap of \$383,425 per classroom per year.**

Inequitable and Inadequate Resources in a Standards-Based Environment with Equal Expectations for All Students

# State Budget - Signed 7/11/24

- \$1.1 billion in new education funding (totalling ~\$11 billion)
- \$225 million increase to BEF
- \$100 million more for special education
- \$100 million for mental health and physical safety
- \$493.8 million adequacy supplement (some stipulations)
- \$32 million tax equity supplement (some stipulations)
- \$100 million cyber charter reimbursement
- School districts must pass their budget BEFORE knowing state funding amount

# State Budget - Signed 7/11/24

## Higher Ed Impacts

- 6% increase for both PASSHE (\$35.1 million) and community colleges (\$15.7 million)
- Performance based formula for state-related universities
- Creates State Board of Higher Education
- New Scholarship program giving students up to \$5,000 per academic year (in approved areas) - have to stay and work in PA for 12 months per grant received
- \$20 million total for Student Teacher Stipends

# What's Causing The Funding Crunch?

- Funding Formula
  - Hold Harmless
- Inflation
- Hold on PlanCon
- Special Ed
- Charter School Funding
- State revenue not keeping pace with local revenue

# WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN PENNSYLVANIA



## NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

**FOR-PROFIT & NON-PROFIT  
ARTS & CULTURE SECTORS REPRESENT**

**4.31%** Nation's GDP    **5.2 M** Jobs



**\$1.102 TRILLION** Arts & Culture



**\$920.5 B** Transportation



**\$438.2 B** Utilities

The national arts and culture sector was a **\$1.102 trillion industry** in 2022 (4.31% of the nation's GDP), representing **5.2 million jobs** (3.28% of nation's workforce), and total compensation of **\$540.9 billion**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Endowment for the Arts (2024). Data collected for 2022.

## PENNSYLVANIA ARTS FACTS

**FOR-PROFIT & NON-PROFIT  
ARTS & CULTURE SECTORS REPRESENT**

**3.3%** State's GDP    **175,872** Jobs



**\$30 BILLION** Arts & Culture



**\$38.6 B** Transportation



**\$15.1 B** Utilities

The Pennsylvania arts and culture sector was a **\$30 billion industry** in 2022 (3.3% of the state's GDP), representing **175,872 jobs** (2.84% of Pennsylvania workforce), and total compensation of **\$15 billion**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (2024). Data collected for 2022.

## FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

**Federal Appropriation FY24**    **\$207 Million**

Congress allocated **\$207 million** to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in **FY24**. This amounts to just **62 cents per capita**. Ideally, Congress should index \$1 per capita funding to the NEA.

Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#), 2024.

4/2024

## PUBLIC FUNDING ALLOCATED IN PENNSYLVANIA ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

**State Appropriation FY23-24**    **\$10,583,000**

**NEA Grant FY24**    **\$990,800**

**NEA Direct Grants FY23**    **\$3,665,865**

Source: [NEA](#), [NASAA](#) 2024



# Issues Facing Music Education

- Teacher Shortage?
- Arts and Humanities Standards Update
- Funding (local)
- Legitimacy
- “Starving Artist”

# What is PMEA Doing?

- Conferences and Festivals
- Advocacy and Policy Work
- Crescendo Student Conference
- Future Music Educators Honors Symposium
- PA Arts Education Leadership Coalition
- Working on lifecycle of a music educator



# **COLLECTIVELY IMPACT MUSIC EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA**

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What Can We Do And  
How Do We Know It's  
Working?



# What Can We Do And How Do We Know It's Working?

## **Challenges > Solutions > Success**

- How do we foster the growth of diverse music education programs?
- How do we create lifelong music makers?
- How do lose the starving artist mentality and show the students how the creative industry is a valuable career path?
- Areas music education and the creative industry can work together?

Thank You!

We will send a survey.

Email - [markd@pmea.net](mailto:markd@pmea.net)





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