



ADVOCACY

What is the PMEA Advocacy Council?

As Advocacy Day and Music In Our Schools Month approach, our council is inviting every member to help share the story of music education. This newsletter is designed to equip you with tools and ideas you can use right away - from training opportunities and ready-to-use resources to MIOSM ideas, quick advocacy actions, and statistics to support your outreach. Your voice matters, and together it makes a difference.

We're also excited to celebrate national recognition for several Pennsylvania programs through the Music for All Advocacy in Action Awards, highlighting the powerful impact music programs have on students and communities. Stories like these strengthen our message with decision-makers - and many of these initiatives can be adapted in your own schools.

Thank you for being part of a statewide effort to keep music education visible, valued, and supported.

Meet YOUR PMEA Advocacy Chairperson



Name: Michaela Madaio

District: 10

School/Organization & Role: Allentown School District - SMMS Band/Orchestra Teacher

Years in Music Education: 3

Favorite Advocacy Tip/Quote: "Tell me, and I forget. Show me, and I remember. Involve me, and I understand."

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 pmea.net/advocacy



Policy Pulse

Update from Mark Despotakis



PMEA is inviting music educators and supporters from across Pennsylvania to take part in Advocacy Day in Harrisburg on Monday, March 23 and we'd love for you to join us.

You don't have to be a policy expert to participate. What matters most is that you're a Pennsylvania constituent who has personally seen the positive impact music education has on students. Your voice and your story truly matter. The more voices we have present that day, the bigger difference we can make.

If you're interested or want more details, please visit our website or email us at advocacy@pmea.net and reach out to your legislators to schedule a meeting!



Learn about your legislators, how to contact them, and participate in national campaigns to support music education:

<https://nafmeorg.quorum.us/campaigns/>

Want more information? Check out our advocacy websites.

NAFME



SCAN ME

PMEA



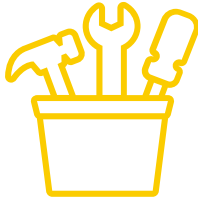
SCAN ME



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Be Ready: Timely Advocacy Tips & Tools

Each season, we'll spotlight a few resources from PMEA's Marketing Toolkit and/or NAFME's Resource library to support local action and connect you to big picture efforts—whether you're just getting started or ready to deepen your impact.



10 Projects for MIOSM

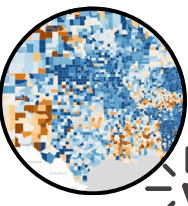
Parent Survey

Community Survey

Video Content



Text Resource



Grow as an Advocate

Professional development picks to elevate your advocacy efforts.

Micro Moves, Major Impact

Bite-sized advocacy efforts that add up (and take less than 30 minutes):

1. **Mark "Advocacy Day" on your calendar** - make a plan to participate in-person (or virtually) on March 23. As a bonus, invite another music advocate to tag along!
2. **Send a email once a week to staff:** "This week in music, students practiced fractions through rhythm patterns." Helps colleagues see **music as academic, not "extra."**



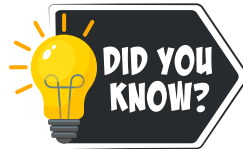
Share Your Story with PMEA!

PMEA compiles statements on how music education has positively impacted and enriched the lives of current and former students to be shared in PMEA News and Social Media. Share your story and encourage others to share by clicking or scanning below!

Music Prepares the Brain for Achievement

Students in the arts are significantly more likely to remain in school throughout their high school, with 32-51% lower chronic absenteeism across all demographics

Source: Quadrant Research, Morrison & McCormick, 2024



IN SEARCH OF: Advocacy in Action

We're looking for real-life examples of advocacy wins to feature in upcoming issues. If your district has seen growth, added support, or any advocacy breakthrough, let us know!

