The Future of Music Education
Actions for Federal or State Leaders

National Association for Music Education

BEFORE THE DEGREE PROGRAM	DURING THE DEGREE PROGRAM	DURING THE FIRST 5 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL LIFE
Challenge Inequitable distribution of funding, physical resources, and human resources	**Challenge** Persistent inequities in how students are enrolled	**Challenge** Low teacher pay and professional expenses (student loan debt, certification costs, etc.)
Solution Increase funding for Title I and Title IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to ensure students have equitable access to a well-rounded education that includes music.	**Solution** Provide financial support for application preparation, waive application fees, and create partnerships between colleges and high schools to ensure students from marginalized backgrounds are aware of and prepared for college entrance and enrollment.	**Solution** Increase salaries, raises, bonus structures, tax credits, and other financial incentives to entice new music teachers into the field.
Challenge Participation, transportation, and private instruction expenses	**Challenge** Lack of financial support to meet students' needs	**Challenge** Lack of funding and time for meaningful professional development and mentoring.
Solution Adopt legislation to clarify how states can support and encourage music education.	**Solution** Increase funding for the TEACH grants, include the costs of clinical experiences in the overall cost of attendance when awarding financial aid, and offer stipends for student teaching.	**Solution** Increase funding for Title II of ESSA and reauthorize the Higher Education Act to ensure teacher preparation programs include strong clinical experience, rigorous requirements and training for mentors, and ongoing mentoring and support for new educators, which research shows increase educator retention and effectiveness.
Challenge Negative perceptions of the teaching profession		
Solution Launch a campaign to promote the value of music education in schools and music education as a viable profession.		