



AMEA POSITION STATEMENT ON MUSIC EDUCATION AND THE REOPENING OF ARIZONA'S SCHOOLS

THE ARIZONA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION BELIEVES VIABLE MUSIC EDUCATION CAN AND SHOULD CONTINUE IN ALL ARIZONA SCHOOLS.

Understandably, many are concerned regarding the safety of the music classroom and the challenges of maintaining meaningful instruction in the era of COVID-19. The belief of the Arizona Music Educators Association (AMEA) is that viable music instruction can and should continue while adhering to the guidelines set by local and national advisors.

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* of 2015 acknowledges that students are entitled to a **well-rounded** education and **all disciplines**, including performing arts, can safely be included as part of a student's instruction. Music provides the opportunity for students to be creative, share their emotions and be part of something bigger than themselves. The act of music making engages students socially, emotionally, cognitively and physically. Music making requires critical thinking and collaborative learning. It teaches every student that they have a direct and personal effect on the group's overall success and struggles. Music has also been proven to relieve stress and calm fears; which is possibly more important now than ever before.

AMEA recognizes districts may have different approaches when schools reopen. Whatever format is adopted by individual districts, music must be considered an indispensable part of a complete curriculum as outlined in state and national standards. AMEA supports music educators as highly-qualified, professional educators who are certified in an area that has proven benefits to students.

Music educators are known for their relationship building and flexibility in and out of the classroom. Given the chance, they will continue to innovate while developing artistic literacy. They will discover unique ways to guide their students and ensure that excellent music instruction can be provided in a variety of formats.

Music educators and their music classes are key components in Arizona's successful reopening of its schools. The Arizona Music Educators Association has supported music educators since 1939. We hope that you will reinforce our mission and continue to promote the study and enjoyment of music in your schools throughout this uncertain time.