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**Funding Request: NYSED Restoration of Music Curriculum Associate in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction**

Dear Finance Chairs,

Please consider this request to restore the position of Music Curriculum Associate in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at NYSED.

Over the past several years, we have observed a spiraling cycle of unfilled professional positions in the New York State Education Department. As SED staffers retire and resign, we find that they have not been replaced, severely affecting existing services to local schools and educators. New and changing programs and standards that warrant professional guidance have not received additional staffing. We understand that there are many positions at SED that are in approved budgets, yet the waiver approval process in the Governor's Office of the Budget prevents them from being filled.

As a result, the capacity of the SED staff to adequately service the needs of teachers, administrators, and school districts has been severely compromised. More importantly, the limited services available from SED have impacted the quality of education received by the students of New York State.

There is one, lone Arts Curriculum Associate whose capacity to serve the needs of all of the Arts – Music, Visual Art, Media Art, Dance and Theater - has been severely compromised for a very long time. Please be reminded that the position of the Music Curriculum Associate in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction has remained vacant for over twelve years, greatly impeding SED's capacity to provide music discipline-specific advice, direction, and clarification to the 8000+ public school music educators across the state. With new Arts Learning Standards, evolving Graduation Pathways in The Arts, and the specific citation in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of Music as an essential part of a well-rounded education, the successful hiring of the Music Curriculum Associate is a must.

Your favorable consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gully Stanford  
Member Regents Blue Ribbon Commission on Arts Pathways to Graduation  
Advisory Committee Member Arts Mid-Hudson  
Member Mid-Hudson Alliance for Arts Education

cc L. Young, Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents  
B. Rosa, NYS Commissioner of Education  
M. Mastroianni, Assistant Secretary for Education  
S. Mayer, NYS Senate Education Committee Chair, 37<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
M. Benedetto, NYS Assembly Education Committee Chair, 82<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District  
Senator Sue Serino  
Assemblymember Didi Barrett  
Senator Peter Harckham  
Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson  
Lori Orestano-James, President New York State Alliance for Arts Education  
Regent Roger Tilles  
Regent Frances Wills

