



1. ***What is the Best Communities for Music Education program?***

For 12 years, the “Best Communities for Music Education” survey has acknowledged schools and districts across the United States for their commitment to and support of music education in schools. Participants in the survey answer detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and other relevant factors in their community’s music education programs. The responses are verified with district officials, and advisory organizations review the data. Throughout the survey’s history, many districts have reported that making the “Best Communities” list has had a positive effect on their ability to preserve music for their students amid budget cuts in arts programs.

2. **Why was my community selected for this designation?**

Your school or school district *achieved* the designation based on your responses on the Best Communities for Music Education survey. The survey outcome is based on the information each school district provides about funding, staffing, commitment to standards and access to music instruction, which is analyzed numerically. Data on communities is also verified via follow-up calls.

3. **What does it mean to my community that it has made this list?**

It means a couple of important things. First of all, it is well-deserved recognition for the community, your leaders, teachers and parents who believe in music education and are assuring that it is part of a complete education for children in our schools. Throughout the 12 years of the survey, we’ve heard reports that this designation helps school music programs maintain and, in many cases, increase funding for music education programs. It also holds you up as an example to others of community support and commitment to music education—and it highlights the important nationwide topic of music education in general.



**4. What were the areas where my community was especially strong?**

The survey measured a variety of factors, including budgetary commitment to music, opportunities to learn music, the presence of highly qualified, certified music teachers, adherence to state and national

standards, types of musical experiences offered and opportunities for performance and competition, among others. To make the "Best Communities," a community is committed to access and high standards for music education in all those areas.

**5. How many schools were nominated/applied etc. for this award?**

The NAMMM Foundation likes to refer to it as a designation, not an award. And communities aren't "nominated," they submit a completed survey to be considered for the designation. Thousands of applicants start and several hundreds submit a completed survey. The survey was heavily promoted through direct e-mails to educators and school administrators in every school district in America, as well as in the news media, so everyone had an equal chance to take part.

**6. How did you learn about the survey?**

The NAMMM Foundation actively promotes the survey to the mainstream media and markets it through its website and an advisory committee of music and education non-profit organizations.