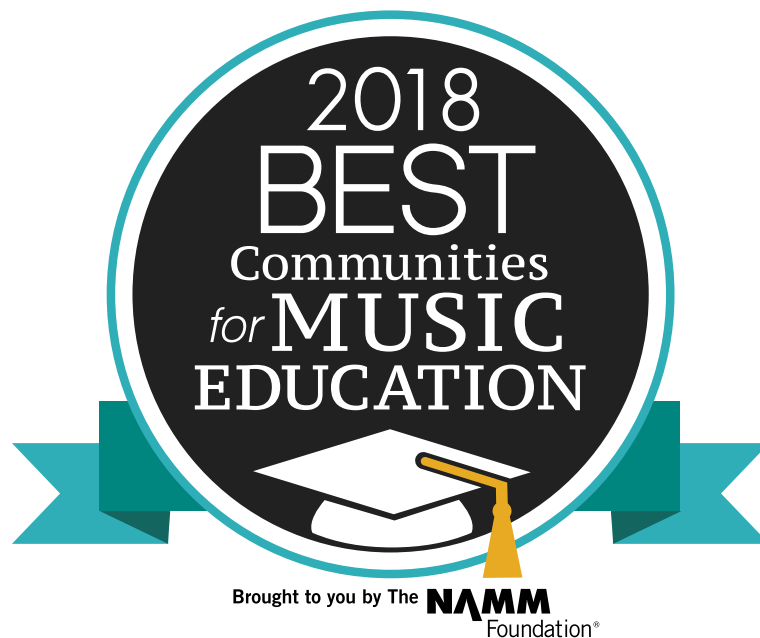


Put the **Spotlight** on Your Local Music Program



Frequently Asked Questions



NAMM
Foundation®

Frequently Asked Questions

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



The Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) program is a signature program of The NAMM Foundation that recognizes and celebrates schools and districts for their support and commitment to music education.



It provides music educators, administrators, board members and advocates with visibility and support for their music education programs and their efforts to assure access to all students as part of a well-rounded education.



As a national recognition program, it gives districts and schools tools to increase visibility and support for their music programs. Designees can receive either a Best Communities Award (BCME), for their district, or a SupportMusic Merit Award (SMMA), as an individual school.



To be considered for a Best Communities for Music Education or SupportMusic Merit Award, applicants complete a survey and answer detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and other factors in the community that affect access to music education for all students.



Survey responses are verified with district officials, and advisory organizations review the data. Throughout the survey's 19-year history, many districts have reported that making the "Best Communities" list has helped efforts to preserve and advance music education programs.

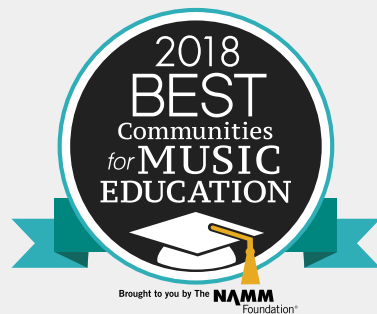


We are extremely honored to receive this outstanding designation for two consecutive years. In addition to highlighting the success of the Simsbury Music Department and its outstanding faculty and students, the designation also highlights the excellent collaboration and support we receive from our community, parents, and school administration. ”

ANGELA GRIFFIN, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS
SIMSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, SIMSBURY, CT



2. What is the difference between the Best Communities for Music Education Award and SupportMusic Merit Award?



The Best Communities for Music Education Award is an opportunity for a district to be acknowledged for their commitment to and support of music education. If you are applying on behalf of a school district that serves students across grade levels and multiple schools, you should complete the Best Communities for Music Education survey.

DISTRICT



[View and download BCME district Survey](#)

SupportMusic

Brought to you by The **NAMM** Foundation

2018 Merit Award

A SupportMusic Merit Award is an opportunity for an individual school to be acknowledged for its commitment to and support of music education. It is a “school-only” distinction. This award is NOT for a community of multiple schools or buildings, but for a single school and can be used by charter, private, parochial and/or individual schools seeking this designation. If you are applying on behalf of a single school, you should complete the SupportMusic Merit Award survey.

SCHOOL



[View and download the SMMA School Survey](#)



3. Can I win both the BCME and the SMMA designation?

No you must apply either on behalf of your district or school. If your school is part of a district we suggest you work with the district and apply to be considered for a Best Community. If you are a charter, private, parochial and/or individual school, we suggest you apply to be considered a SupportMusic Merit Award designation.

4. Will multiple applications for my school or district be considered, or make a stronger case for us?

No. Only the first application per school or district received will be considered so please coordinate with the other administrators in your school or district before applying.

5. What are the survey categories?

Districts and schools are reviewed by the following categories:

- Participation in Music
- Scheduling
- Qualified Faculty
- Opportunity
- Support from Administrators
- Standards Based Learning and Curriculum
- Community Partnerships
- Technology
- Funding

Data are analyzed statistically and also verified via a follow-up audit. Awardees are announced in the spring.

6. Who should complete the survey?

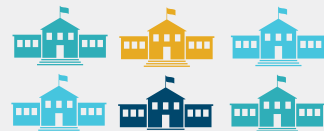
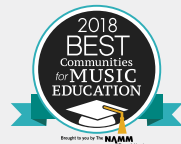
A qualified district representative should complete the survey due to the very specific information requested. A district administrator should gather and complete the survey on behalf of the district OR school or should work in partnership with the music educator or fine arts supervisor.



School Applicants:

School applicants: Review the **2018 SupportMusic Merit Award** school survey here to get an idea of the questions and information you need to collect.

[View and download the SMMA School Survey](#)



District Applicants:

District applicants: Review the **2018 Best Communities for Music Education** district survey here to get an idea of the questions and information you need to collect.

[View and download BCME district Survey](#)



7. How long does it take to complete the survey?

Due to the detailed questions that are asked and the time required to write responses to the essay questions, participants should allow approximately 30-45 minutes to complete the survey.

8. What are the benefits of being designated a Best Communities for Music Education district or SupportMusic Merit Award school?

The award:

- Recognizes the commitment of school administration and community leaders, teachers and parents who believe in music education and are working to ensure that it is part of a complete education for children.
- Gives communities a sense of pride and competitiveness and provides national recognition to programs that are a source of pride for parents, teachers and school leaders.
- Advances support for music education and sheds a light on music education as a national education issue.
- Highlights the high standards of school and community achievements by providing access and opportunity for music learning.
- Is used by schools and communities as an advocacy tool to increase visibility for their program.
- Great tool to audit your program.

9. How many schools and districts received the designation in 2017?

527 school districts and 92 schools across the nation were recognized for their outstanding music education programs.

10. What is The NAMM Foundation?

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit organization with the mission of advancing active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs. For more information about The NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.

**If your questions were not answered, please contact our
Technical Assistance Team at
nammsurvey@gmail.com.
We will respond as soon as possible.**

Photo Credits: Rob Davidson Photography