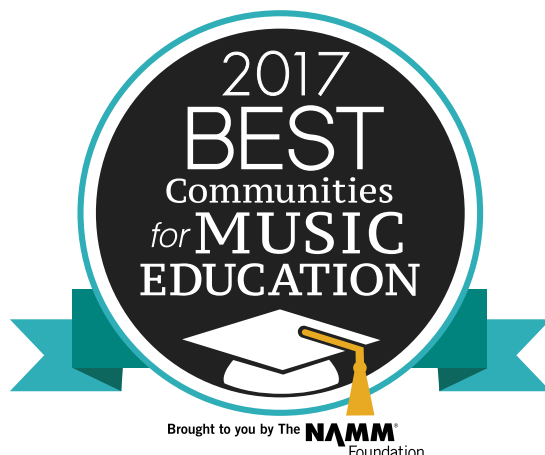




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# PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR LOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Questions



## 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 the core curriculum.



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 must 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 17-year history, many districts have reported that making the "Best Communities" list has helped efforts to preserve and advance music education programs.



*"Being named a BCME was the catalyst for us to gain an expanded music education budget, all while increasing community visibility and support," said Lonnie Stover, Supervisor of Music at Sycamore Community Schools in Cincinnati, Ohio. "It was a wonderful recognition of the efforts of our music staff to provide the highest quality of music education possible and further provided validation of the quality of programs we provide for our students."*

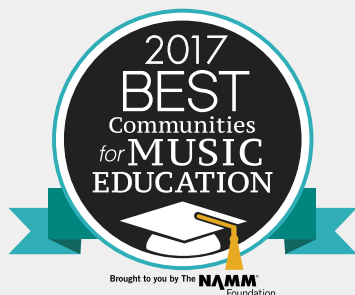


**LONNIE STOVER**  
**SUPERVISOR OF MUSIC AT SYCAMORE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**CINCINNATI, OH**





## 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 2017 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](#)



**NAMM**  
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### 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 Communities. If you are a charter, private, parochial and/or individual school, we suggest you apply to be considered a SupportMusic Merit Award designee.

### 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 be certain to 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 nine 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 are 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.

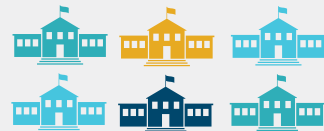
**SupportMusic**  
brought to you by The NAMM Foundation  
**2017 Merit Award**



#### School Applicants:

Review the **2017 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:

Review the **2017 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](#)





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## 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 light on music education as a national education issue.
- Highlights the high standards of school and community achievements by providing access and opportunity to 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 2016?

Congratulations to the 476 school districts across the United States are being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as among the Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) and the 118 schools across the nation with the SupportMusic Merit Award (SMMA), honoring individual schools that have demonstrated strong support for and commitment to music education.

## 10. What is The NAMM Foundation?

The NAMM Foundation is a non-profit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its 10,300 members around the world. The NAMM Foundation works to advance active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service 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, SCHOOLS**