***Press Release Template for Best Communities for Music Education Award—School Districts Only***

**[Contact Name]**

**[Email]**

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**[District]** Receives National Recognition for Music Education Support

**[If your district has won this award multiple times, please note it in the title of the release]**

**[City, State]** – **[Date]** – **[District]** has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for their outstanding support and commitment to music education. Now in its 26th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement for providing music access and education to all students.

Two awards are given each year: Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) for school districts and the SupportMusic Merit Award (SMMA) for individual school sites. Both reach K-12 schools and districts throughout the U.S. and offer opportunities to increase awareness and support for music programs. Over 1,000 districts and individual school sites (public, private, charter, parochial) were recognized for having the highest commitment to producing exceptional music programs.

**[“Insert quote from a school district official on the impact of music education on district and its students,” said District Official. “Insert quote on the impact that receiving this designation will have on the district’s music education program.”]**

**[“Optional student/teacher quote about WHY music education is important.”]**

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, [District] answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Responses were verified by school officials and reviewed by Responses were verified by school officials and reviewed by the leading arts educational research firm, WolfBrown.

**[Add information about the school district]**

**About The NAMM Foundation**

The NAMM Foundation is the charitable arm of the National Association of Music Merchants, the global trade association for the music products industry. The foundation works to remove systemic barriers that limit access to music-making and career pathways in the music industry. By investing in bold ideas and innovative solutions, we strive to build inclusive and thriving musical communities. For more information about The NAMM Foundation, please visit [www.nammfoundation.org](http://www.nammfoundation.org).

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