

Key Messages – Michigan Music Education Task Force Campaign

- As health care professionals vaccinate thousands of people each day in Michigan, a team of music educators across the state have created a campaign to give a much-needed shot in the arm to music education. With the help of Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, a package of messages and encouragement to support music programs was developed for school administrators.
- The campaign reminds principals and administrators about the importance of music education to the students of the State, asking them to support programs despite the tough challenges brought by COVID-19.
- As we begin to see the light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, music education is still at risk. Some programs have been canceled completely. As class sizes dwindle, school officials are contemplating canceling some programs based on “numbers.”
- One particularly damaging aspect is with young students. Beginning band, orchestra (and choir?) students have lost an entire (crucial) year. Experts believe this will negatively impact music education for six-to-seven years, as fifth and sixth graders make their way out of K-12 schools.
- Performance opportunities – the pinnacle for many music students – has lost much of the excitement and collaboration in a virtual world. This is key to giving young people the invaluable experience and social/emotional well-being that comes from performing live.