

# Increasing Engagement from Rural/Inner City Communities

Dr. David Brown and Gina Costanza

NFHS Performing Arts Conference

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# Presenters



**Dr. David Brown**

NYSSMA President  
Superintendent of Schools  
DeRuyter Central



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MEANYC President  
Elementary Music Teacher  
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# Agenda

- ⊙ Review of Music Education in New York State
- ⊙ Needs/Deficiencies in Rural Schools
- ⊙ Arts Education in Rural America
- ⊙ Why did Gina choose inner city schools?
- ⊙ Ways MEANYC Builds Community
- ⊙ Ways to Promote Equity for Access
- ⊙ Similarities and Differences in Rural and Inner City

# Music Education in New York State

- ⊙ Requirements as part of the ESSA
- ⊙ Elementary and Middle School Requirements
- ⊙ High School Requirements
- ⊙ New Laws are being proposed - Senate Bill S4525

Adds arts and music education as a common school branch that should be incorporated into the public school curriculum to provide a more well-rounded education for children.

- ⊙ New State Standards based on National Standards
  - NYSSMA was in the front of this work -

# Senate Bill S4525

The course of study for the first eight years of full time public day schools shall provide for instruction in at least the [twelve] THIRTEEN common school branches of arithmetic, reading, spelling, writing, the English language, geography, United States history, civics, hygiene, ARTS AND MUSIC, physical training, the history of New York state and science.

# DeRuyter Central Schools

- ◎ 360 Students Pre-K through 12th Grade
  - Not one of the top 100 Schools in New York
- ◎ Community Eligibility Program
- ◎ Five Member Team Administrative Team
- ◎ Most Grade Levels have Two Sections
- ◎ Two F.T. Art Teachers and 2.5 F.T. Music Teachers
- ◎ Why did I choose to lead a small rural School



# NYSSMA

- ⊙ New York State School Music Association
- ⊙ David is President until December 31st
- ⊙ Professional Membership is very important
- ⊙ New DEI Committee Created - 1 Meeting
- ⊙ Rural School's Chairperson
- ⊙ Urban School's Chairperson

# Rural School Topics/Concerns

- ⊙ There is inequity in funding in NYS – Foundation Aid
- ⊙ Isolation creating Social and Emotional Well Being
  - Many strive for college but struggle
- ⊙ Salaries – Retention of Staff
- ⊙ Transportation Needs – This is across the board
- ⊙ Sometimes however, the small world experience creates a desire to stay and raise a family out of the rat race.



# Why Did I Choose Inner City Schools?

Culturally diverse musical traditions

Community

Creativity and Freedom

# Ways MEANYC Builds Community

- ⊙ Professional Development Workshops
- ⊙ Networking Events
- ⊙ MS & HS All-Area Festivals
- ⊙ Advocacy supported by NYSSMA



# Ways to Promote Equity for Access

- ⊙ Cultural Competency and Anti-Bias Training
- ⊙ Share Ideas and Resources
- ⊙ Offer Mentoring Opportunities
- ⊙ Remove Barriers
  - Repertoire beyond traditional BOJC
  - Registration and Transportation Fees
  - Application Process for Scholarships
  - Meet People Where They Are

# What is similar and what is different?

- ⊙ Access to the Arts
- ⊙ Attracting and retaining good pedagogues
- ⊙ Finances
- ⊙ Social and emotional needs and DEI Initiatives
- ⊙ Strong sense of community

<https://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=3329>

# Questions? Contact Us



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