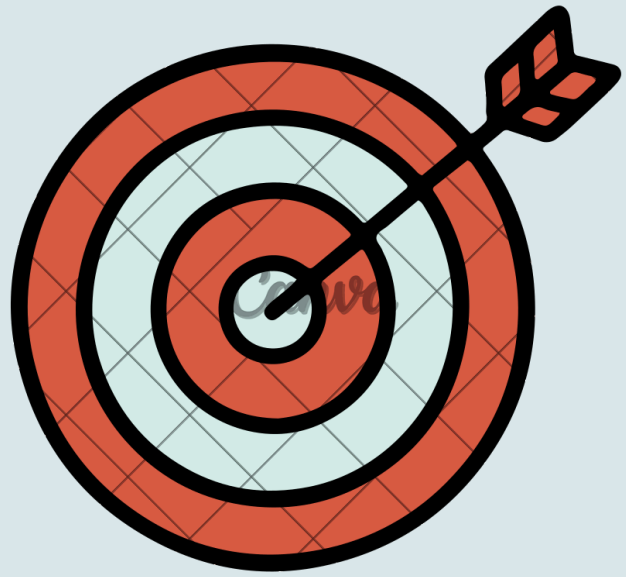


H.R.7855 - 119TH CONG.

GAAME Act (Guaranteed Access to Arts and Music Education)



Purpose

The GAAME Act (Guaranteed Access to Arts and Music Education Act) aims to incentivize and facilitate the use of Title I funds (federal grants for schools with a high percentage of low-income families) for music and art education.

Context:

This bill amends the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) of 1965, which was a part of Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty." This act created title fund programs, which aim to help disadvantaged students.

The GAAME Act specifies the process of using Title I funds for art and music education.



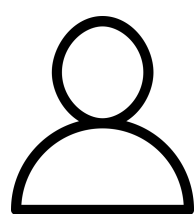
What is the impact?



Policy Actions

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez of New York’s 7th district states that the bill will allow schools to increase available music educators, purchase more equipment, provide further development for artistic educators, and improve access to “sequential and standards-based” (meaning long-term growth and mastery) music courses.

Who is affected?



This act affects all students and music educators in districts eligible for Title I funding, which includes about 60% of public school districts.

- Students, specifically those who are disadvantaged or low-income, would receive better access to higher-quality music education at school.
- Music educators will have better access to resources and professional development, as well as better and more incentivized hiring.

Why does this policy matter?

The GAAME Act is important because by allowing disadvantaged and lower-income students access to better music education, it ensures that creative curriculum and careers are not limited to a certain demographic.



Limitations

This act does not actually create any additional funding and only incentivizes the use of Title I funds for music education. The bill does not create any actual requirements for districts to allocate these funds into the purposes that Velázquez outlined.

Sources

- <https://velazquez.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/velazquez-booker-frost-introduce-bicameral-bills-strengthen-music-and>
- <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/programs/education/elementary-and-secondary-education-act-of-1965/>
- <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=158>