

What is the Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) and SupportMusic Merit Awards (SMMA)?

The Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) is a signature program of The NAMM Foundation that recognizes and celebrates school districts and schools for their support and commitment to music education and efforts to assure access to music for all students as part of a well-rounded education.

The BCME for school districts and the SupportMusic Merit Award (SMMA) for individual schools offer opportunities to increase awareness and support for music programs. This year, the program celebrates its 20th Anniversary of honoring schools and districts across the country.

A variety of nationally known organizations act as advisors for the program including: Americans for the Arts, League of American Orchestras, The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, Music for All, Music Teachers National Association, National Guild for Community Arts Education, Yamaha Corporation of America, Young Audiences and VH1 Save The Music Foundation.

What is the difference between the Best Communities for Music Education Award (BCME) and the SupportMusic Merit Award (SMMA)?

The BCME Award recognizes a school district for their commitment to and support of music education.

An SMMA Award recognizes an individual school (public, private, parochial or charter) for their commitment to and support of music education. It is a "school-only" distinction awarded as part of the Best Communities for Music Education program.

How was my community or school selected? Your program was selected based on an application submitted by a representative of your district or school, which provided information about funding, staffing, commitment to standards and access to music instruction. Data was analyzed statistically and verified via a follow-up audit by researchers at the University of Kansas.

A total of ninety-eight schools were chosen nationwide. Ballard High School is the only school in Washington state to receive this award.

What does it mean to my community or school that we received the designation? The award recognizes and celebrates the commitment of school administrators, community leaders, teachers and parents who believe in music education and are working to ensure that it is part of a well-rounded education for all children. Over the 20 years of the survey, this designation has helped school music programs maintain and, in many cases, increase funding for music education programs. The award highlights music as a national education issue and shows what your school or community is doing to provide opportunities for music learning. The award also enables educators to draw attention to music programs that are sometimes overlooked or not fully understood by members of the public beyond the school community.

About The NAMM Foundation The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its approximately 10,400 members around the world. The foundation advances active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs. For more information about The NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.