

Orchestrating Success



in the Mountain State

WVASCC

In an effort to have sufficient time to prepare for the WVASCC, participating teachers are reminded to return the 2015 Student/Teacher Information Form and one completed 2015 Singer Release/Medical Form for each singer by January 10.

In anticipation that teachers may decide to withdraw from the WVASCC, teachers are asked to do so prior to January 7. Because many teachers express an interest in receiving extra allotments, it is crucial that teachers notify the cochairs of any cancelled allotments. This allows the organization to fairly re-assign the cancelled allotments and maintain balanced vocal parts. Please be reminded that participating teachers do not have the authority to transfer their allotments to other teachers.



From the Hill

On Tuesday, December , Congressional leadership released a \$1.01 trillion spending bill to fund the federal government through September 2015. The "Cromnibus" would appropriate new funding for 11 out of 12 federal departments through the end of the next fiscal year, and includes a Congressional Resolution (an extension of FY 2014 funding without a new appropriation) for the Department of



Arts Alive Submission Deadlines Have Been Extended!

Numerous counties have missed several days of school due to inclement weather and/or flu outbreaks. To ensure that teachers and students have time to submit work to Arts Alive, we have extended all **January 16th deadlines to Friday, February 6th at 12:00 noon.**

Arts Alive is Friday, April 3, 2015!

Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences in Charleston, WV.

Remember: There is no longer a requirement or pre-requisite that teachers must belong to their professional organization to submit work for

Homeland Security through March 2015. The bill is expected to pass both houses but is unlikely to get through both chambers by the deadline of December 11, when current funding for the government is set to expire. The House will likely pass a very brief Congressional Resolution on Thursday as a stopgap measure, to provide a few more days for the House and Senate to pass the final omnibus.

Education Funding Details

Nearly all education program funding is held steady over FY 2014 levels, with a few small increases for major programs and larger increases for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Select increases include:

- +\$25 million for Title I funding;
- +\$255.6 million for the Fund for the Improvement of Education, including \$250 million for Preschool Development Grants (FIE also includes \$25 million for Arts in Education, which is level funded from FY 2014);
- +\$25 million for IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) grants;
- +\$25 million for special education programs; and
- +\$75 million for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (included in the Department of Health and Human Services).

Notable decreases include:

- The elimination of Race to the Top grants (-\$250 million, offset by the +\$250 million increase for Preschool Development Grants);
- A reduction of -\$300 million in Pell Grants;
- Elimination of the Rural Schools Program (-\$300 million,) which provides funds to schools in areas with national forest service lands;
- -\$21.6 million from Investing in Innovation (funded at \$142 million in FY 2014); and
- -\$58.7 million from the Teacher Incentive Fund.

Related Items and Concerns

Besides immigration, other issues in the bill threaten to slow passage of the omnibus, including defense policy, tax extenders (including an extension of the teacher tax deduction; if passed, teachers could deduct up to \$250 to offset personal expenses towards classroom supplies,) and a handful of special-interest provisions. Nonetheless, Congressional leadership from both parties has expressed optimism about reaching a final vote by Sunday.

The full Labor-HHS-Education omnibus bill report

consideration. ANY arts teacher (Pre-K-12; Dance, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts) can submit work for consideration in Arts Alive.

- Every arts discipline (Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts) now has an alternative submission process.
- All Arts Alive Submission Guidelines are posted! Please visit the Arts Alive web page <http://wvde.state.wv.us/arts-alive> for detailed information. Guidelines are also attached.

Connecting Practice, Measurement, and Evaluation
The Fifth International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education (ISAME)

February 18-21, 2015

Williamsburg Lodge and Conference Center,
Williamsburg, Virginia, USA

For more information, visit:

<http://reg.conferences.dce.ufl.edu/ISAME>

Earn Credit for Attending the In-Service!

Don't forget that you can receive graduate credit for attending the WVMEA In-Service Conference. Go to http://wvmea.tripod.com/2015_course_registration.htm for more information.



WVMEA Announces Candidates for President- Elect

In accordance with the bylaws, WVMEA is excited to announce two candidates who will be running for the office of President- Elect. Each candidate will be delivering speeches and will be available for questions and concerns during and after the general meeting held on Thursday morning of the In-Service.

The two candidates are Jim Allder, of Greenbriar County and Andi Hasely of Berkeley County. Biographies and other information concerning the two candidates will be available in February's issue.

and funding tables can be found here:

<http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20141208/113-HR83sa-ES-G.pdf>

Early Education Grants Announced Today

In other funding news, the Obama administration announced today that eighteen states (out of 36 that applied) will receive funding totaling more than \$226 million from the federal government's Preschool Development Grant program, to build or expand pre-K programs. The Department of Education has estimated that these funds will serve an additional 33,000 children.

The Preschool Development Grants are part of over \$1 billion in combined federal and private-sector funding announced at today's White House Summit on Early Childhood Education. Today's announcements included a total of \$750 million in new federal funding impacting more than 63,000 children, and over \$330 million in private-sector commitments to expand the reach and quality of these programs.

States that won development grants to build pre-K programs include:

- Alabama, \$17,500,000
- Arizona, \$20,000,000
- Hawaii, \$2,074,059
- Montana, \$10,000,000
- Nevada, \$6,405,860

States that won grants to expand their pre-K programs include:

- Illinois, \$20,000,000
- Maryland, \$15,000,000
- Massachusetts, \$15,000,000
- New Jersey, \$17,498,115
- Rhode Island, \$2,290,840
- Vermont, \$7,231,681
- Arkansas, \$14,993,000
- Connecticut, \$12,499,000
- Louisiana, \$2,437,982
- Maine, \$3,497,319
- New York, \$24,991,372
- Tennessee, \$17,500,000

The authorizing legislation for these grants focuses on increasing the numbers of low-income and disadvantaged children who are enrolled in high-quality early learning programs, integrating state early learning systems, and formulating appropriate program assessments as required. It neither recommends nor prohibits specific curricula, including music and the arts. It appears possible



Upcoming All State Choral Clinics

January 24th, at Capital High School, contact Kathy Corbett for registration details. Dr. David Castleberry will be leading the clinic. Lunch is on site. Email kgcorbett.chs.vips@gmail.com.
February 13th, Glenville State College, contact Dr. Teresa Dody at teresa.dody@glenville.edu for registration details. Lunch is included.



Honor Chorus Set at Glenville State College

For several years now, Glenville State College has hosted an area honor band and has plans to continue this offering. New for 2015, is the introduction of their honor chorus. The chorus plans to debut in April of 2015. West Virginia High School Choral directors are encouraged to bring your talented students. For further information on this inaugural event, contact Teresa Dody at teresa.dody@glenville.edu. If you're interested in the honor band, also set in April, contact department chair, Lloyd Bone at lloyd.bone@glenville.edu.



There's Still Time to Apply!

Teachers attending the WVMEA Annual In-Service can apply for and receive three(3) hours of continuing education credits. Applications, syllabus and other details are located on the www.wvmea.org website.

that these funds may be used for early-learning programs that include music education, but curricula decisions would likely be made as part of a larger process of ensuring adherence to grant requirements, as funds trickle down to local providers.

For more information, see the Department of Education's Preschool Development Fact Sheet:

<http://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/preschool-development-grants-fact-sheet-flyer.pdf>.

As always, feel free to contact us with any questions or for more information. Thanks for all that you do, and have a great evening.

Sincere regards,
Shannon Kelly



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This is a steal! Make your professional development work for you!

Dropping Names

WVMEA is excited about the caliber of the presenters that are making their way to the Mountain State.

Below are just a few of the folks that will be joining us in March:

Maribeth Yoder- White, NAFME's Southern Division President, will be delivering our keynote address as well as delivering sessions geared towards our general music teachers as well as a session for all music educators. Sharon Burch, famous for her Freddie the Frog series will be joining us for an extended session that our general music teachers will be sure to love. Kevin Fuhrman will be conducting a workshop on rhythm while Dr. Richard Cangro will be lending us his expertise on incorporating Common Core Strategies into instrumental ensemble settings. Dr. Janet Robbins will share Brazilian Music, Dr. Teresa Dody will share techniques for the instrumentalist- turned vocal teacher.

These are just a few of the folks who will be sharing ideas and bringing their expertise to us! As the In-Service draws near, more names will be dropped!

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