

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7855

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to expand access to school-wide arts and music programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2026

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to expand access to school-wide arts and music programs, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Guarantee Access to  
5 Arts and Music Education Act of 2026” or the “GAAME  
6 Act of 2026”.

7       **SEC. 2. SCHOOL-WIDE ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION.**

8       Section 1114 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6314) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)(7)(A)(iii)—

2 (A) in subclauses (IV) and (V), by striking  
3 “; and” and inserting a semicolon; and

4 (B) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(VI) sequential, standards-based  
6 arts education taught by certified arts  
7 educators (as defined by the State)  
8 and community arts providers to meet  
9 the challenging State academic stand-  
10 ards; and”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(f) DEFINITION OF ARTS.—For purposes of sub-  
13 section (b)(7)(A)(iii)(VI), the term ‘arts’ means dance,  
14 media arts, theater, and visual arts.”.

15 **SEC. 3. SCHOOL-WIDE ACCESS TO MUSIC EDUCATION.**

16 Section 1114(b)(7)(A)(iii) of the Elementary and  
17 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
18 6314(b)(7)(A)(iii)), as amended by section (2), is further  
19 amended by inserting after subclause (VI) the following:

20 “(VII) sequential, standards-  
21 based music education that is aligned  
22 to challenging State academic stand-  
23 ards and is taught by certified music  
24 educators (as defined by the State);  
25 and”.

1 **SEC. 4. TARGETED ASSISTANCE SCHOOLS FOR ARTS EDU-**  
2 **CATION.**

3 Section 1115 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6315) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking “well-  
6 rounded education;” inserting the following: “well-  
7 rounded education, such as—

8 “(i) programmatic assistance for stu-  
9 dents to participate in arts programs that  
10 address their academic needs (including  
11 support for certified arts educators (as de-  
12 fined by the State), arts educator profes-  
13 sional development, supplies, and other ex-  
14 penses associated with instruction in the  
15 arts); and”;

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(i) DEFINITION OF ARTS.—For purposes of sub-  
18 section (b)(2)(A)(i), the term ‘arts’ means dance, media  
19 arts, theater, and visual arts.”.

20 **SEC. 5. TARGETED ASSISTANCE SCHOOLS FOR MUSIC EDU-**  
21 **CATION.**

22 Section 1115(b)(2)(A) of the Elementary and Sec-  
23 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6315(b)(2)(A)),  
24 as amended by section 4, is further amended by adding  
25 at the end the following:

1                   “(ii) programmatic assistance for stu-  
2                   dents to participate in music programs  
3                   that address their academic needs (includ-  
4                   ing support for certified music educators,  
5                   music educator professional development,  
6                   instruments, sheet music, music tech-  
7                   nology, and other expenses associated with  
8                   music instruction);”.

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