



Wakefield, MA (April 27, 2026) – For the 15th time the Wakefield Public Schools Music Department has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Wakefield is one of 4% of districts across the nation and one of 24 school districts in Massachusetts receiving the prestigious award in 2026.

Now in its 27th year, the program continues to spotlight and celebrate school districts and individual schools across the United States for their exemplary dedication to music education and their ongoing efforts to ensure equitable access to music learning as part of a well-rounded education. Wakefield was selected through a comprehensive application and review process that evaluates key indicators, including funding, instructional time, participation rates, facilities and community support. To uphold the program's rigor and credibility, all applications were independently reviewed and verified by WolfBrown, a leading research and evaluation firm specializing in education and the arts.

"I am very proud of the Wakefield Community, Wakefield Music Boosters and the Wakefield School Department for their continued support of music in the town of Wakefield. Families move to Wakefield and keep their children in the Wakefield Public Schools because of the nationally recognized music program. This is a K-12 designation, which shows the value that is put on music throughout the school system and town. The music staff, district administration and community have shown their dedication to providing a quality music education for all students. As we continue to grow in enrollment in the music department we are excited to continue to provide outstanding performances for the community, along with bringing home countless awards every year from around the state and New England. This distinction is an acknowledgement that Wakefield Public School Music is continuing to raise the bar for our students." – Thomas Bankert, Wakefield Public Schools Director of Visual & Performing Arts.

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music: After two years of music education, researchers found that participants showed substantial improvements in how the brain processes speech and that students who are involved in music are not only more likely to graduate high school, but also to attend college.