2023 NAfME All-NW & WMEA High School All-State New Housing Policy and Process

What we hope:

The WMEA board understands and appreciates that this is a significant change to past practice and will represent additional work and responsibility on the part of teachers, schools and families. Our hope is that teachers will network with one another, and help each other within their buildings, school districts, and regions.

Policy:

In light of liability and safety concerns, WMEA will discontinue housing and chaperoning for participants in high school honor ensembles, including All-State and All-Northwest. Under the new protocol, WMEA will take responsibility for supervising students from the time they report for the first rehearsal of the first day until the conclusion of the evening rehearsal or event, at which point they will be released to the supervision of their school director or chaperone. School directors are responsible for following all guidelines established by their schools and districts to ensure that their students are appropriately supervised at all WMEA events.

Rationale:

A number of concerns have been raised regarding WMEA’s practice of housing unacquainted students from different schools in rooms together, often sharing beds. There is no appropriate vetting process for juvenile participants that would guarantee students will not intentionally or unintentionally cause harm to one another in this situation. Transferring control of which students are rooming together to the local director minimizes the risk of impropriety. Any incidents of misconduct that do arise during hotel stays can be managed according to school protocols, as they would be for any other school trip. The new procedures will allow students in different performance groups but from the same school potentially to share rooms, and schools with low honor group enrollment would have the opportunity to coordinate lodging and supervision with participants from neighboring schools within their district and/or region. Further rationale:

1. It strengthens WMEA’s ability to ensure student safety
2. It creates/provides all participants with the same student experience.
3. Using WMEA block hotels will help all students be where they need to be, on time, and in the most efficient manner.

What This Means:

Schools will now be responsible for arranging lodging for their participating students, and provide a school/district approved adult chaperone(s) to supervise their students while they are at their hotel. WMEA will offer a block of hotel rooms for schools to choose from and all students must stay in one of the hotels within that block. There will be no exceptions. WMEA will provide transportation from those designated hotels to rehearsal sites each morning and return transportation to hotels at the conclusion of each evening’s activities. WMEA will continue to assume full responsibility for high school participants during all rehearsals and All-NW/All-State related activities.

Some Frequently Asked Questions:

Question: As a teacher with accepted participants, do I personally have to serve as my school’s chaperone?
Answer: No, although you can if you so choose. You will need to arrange for, and ensure that a school/district approved adult serves in that role.

Question: Does the chaperone have to supervise students during the day?
Answer: Absolutely not. Chaperones simply must supervise students overnight once WMEA drops them off at the hotel each evening, and get students up and on the WMEA supplied bus to rehearsal each morning. Chaperones are free to spend each day as they wish.

Question: How do teachers reserve hotel rooms? Can parents (non-chaperones) reserve WMEA hotel block rooms?
Answer: Information will be provided on the WMEA website and in information sent to teachers and accepted students with links to the WMEA hotel room blocks. Teachers or parents will be able to make reservations in the WMEA blocked rooms.

Question: Are teachers responsible for paying for our own rooms? Can we use a PO to pay for the room?
Answer: All rooms must be paid for by participants, whether they are students, teachers, or chaperones. A teacher wishing to pay for a room with a PO would need to work with their school district and the hotel to do so. WMEA has negotiated to reserve room blocks at a conference rate, but all payment will be directly between hotels and the people staying in those rooms.

Question: If I only have one student, do I reserve a room for that student alone?
Answer: As stated above under Rationale: The new procedures will allow students in different performance groups but from the same school to potentially share rooms, and schools with low honor group enrollment would have the opportunity to coordinate lodging and supervision with participants from neighboring schools within their district and/or region.

Question: Will exceptions be granted for local students?
Answer: WMEA has had to contract with the conference hotels in anticipation of the needs of honor group participants, families, chaperones, and teachers. The room blocks are an integral part of the facilities contracts that include hotel room blocks, rehearsal space for honor groups, honor group performance venues, and conference facilities. For these reasons, exceptions are not granted.
### Division of Responsibilities:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Chaperone</th>
<th>WMEA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reserve hotel rooms in WMEA designated room blocks to accommodate student(s) and chaperone(s.)</td>
<td>• Ensure students get on WMEA buses in the morning.</td>
<td>• All local transportation will be provided by buses.</td>
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<td>• Arrange for hotel payment.</td>
<td>• Take responsibility for student supervision upon drop off at hotel in the evening.</td>
<td>• Meals during rehearsal hours. (See details below.)</td>
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<td>• Provide chaperone(s) staying at hotels per school and district guidelines.</td>
<td>• Secure and transport student luggage while not at hotel.</td>
<td>• Adult supervision between pickup at hotel/first activity in the morning through drop off/last activity in the evening.</td>
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<td>• Secure safe, school and district approved transportation to and from Bellevue.</td>
<td>• Help ensure students are checked out of rooms on final day of stay.</td>
<td>• Provide appropriate space to change into concert dress between final rehearsal and final concert.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Secure blocks of rooms in anticipation of need at a “conference rate.”</td>
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### WMEA High School All-State Chronological Logistics:

**Thursday:**
*Under school/district supervision, students are fed lunch and then delivered to their rehearsal site. If students have not already checked in to their hotel, school chaperones/parents will need to keep student luggage with them.*

*WMEA will provide dinner on day one.*

*Upon conclusion of rehearsals, WMEA will transport all students to their hotel where they will be released to school approved supervision until the following morning.*

**Friday:**
*School chaperones will make sure that students are up, checked out of hotel rooms, and arrive to buses on time.*

*Students will need to make sure that they have everything with them to rehearse and perform. Students will likely want to have a backpack or small dress/suit bag to contain their concert uniform until it time to change.*

*Chaperones will take responsibility of luggage upon student check out from hotels.*

*WMEA will pick up students from their hotel and transport them to rehearsal site. Breakfast will be provided at the hotel or on route to rehearsal.*

*Lunch and dinner between the final rehearsal and concert will be provided by WMEA.*

*WMEA provides transportation to concert sites. Upon conclusion of the concert, all students will be released to their school director or chaperone for safe transport home.*

### NAfME High School All-NW Chronological Logistics:

**Friday:**
*Under school/district supervision, students are fed breakfast and then delivered to their rehearsal site. If students have not already checked in to their hotel, school chaperones/parents will need to keep student luggage with them.*

*WMEA will provide lunch and dinner on day one.*

*Upon conclusion of rehearsal, WMEA will transport all students to their hotel where they will be released to school approved supervision until the following morning.*

**Saturday:**
*School chaperones will make sure that students are up, checked out of hotel rooms, and arrive to buses on time.*

*Students will need to make sure that they have everything with them to rehearse and perform. Students will likely want to have a backpack or small dress/suit bag to contain their concert uniform until it time to change.*

*Chaperones will take responsibility of luggage upon student check out from hotels.*

*WMEA will pick up students from their hotel and transport them to rehearsal site. Breakfast will be provided at the hotel or on route to rehearsal.*

*Lunch will be provided by WMEA. Dinner will also be provided for Jazz Band & Choir.*

*WMEA provides transportation to concert sites. Upon conclusion of the concert, all students will be released to their school director or chaperone for safe transport home.*