

Washington Music Educators Association

WMEA All-State Music Group Governing Policies



Adopted June 1989

Revised August 1991, October 1997,

June 2001, June 2004, June 2006, October 2006,

August 2009, July 2012, May 2019, August 2022,

August 2023, August 2025

2025 UPDATES – SUMMARY

In the Spring of 2024, the WMEA board approved a policy change submitted by the All-State Task Force. The new language appears below in *bold and italics*.

- ~~Audition recording must be done in the presence of the teacher submitting the application or another WMEA active member from that school. Once the recording process has begun, the recording may not be returned to the student.~~ ***Either teachers or students may produce their audition recordings. Students must submit recordings to the submitting teacher for verification before submissions. Once verified, recordings may not be returned to the student.*** Teachers and students may NOT electronically or otherwise enhance any recordings beyond the actual recording session.

Please note: The NAFME Northwest division rules for All-Northwest auditions have not been changed and, therefore, still require that audition recordings be made in the presence of the submitting teacher.

Since the All-Northwest and All-State auditions use the same recordings, for all 2025 High School auditions, the All-Northwest rules supersede the WMEA rules. We hope that for the 2027 auditions, All-Northwest and WMEA rules will be re-aligned, pending approval by the NAFME Northwest Division board.

PARTICIPATION-ELIGIBILITY

- WMEA will offer the following All-State opportunities: Junior All-State Youth Choir for students in grades 5 and 6, Junior All-State bands/choirs/orchestra for grades 7 and 8, and high school All-State for grades 9-12. Eligible students must be currently attending and represent an accredited public or private school in Washington. They must apply through that school's WMEA/NAfME member teacher of the music class in which they participate.
- Secondary students must regularly participate in their school's performing group corresponding to the WMEA All-State group for which they apply. They must do so from the time of application through the time of the WMEA All-State event. The following definitions will govern this policy.
 - In all high school and Junior All-State grade 7-8 cases, the school music performing group in which an applicant is participating must be a class offered for academic credit. Exception: For Junior All-State grade 7-8 Jazz Band applicants, the school's jazz band does not need to be an accredited course.
 - For purposes of selection, applicants for winds and percussion must participate in the school's orchestra and/or band.
 - Applicants for large vocal groups must participate in the school's large-group choir.
 - Applicants for string groups must participate in the school's orchestra.
 - Applicants for the jazz groups (vocal and instrumental) must participate in their corresponding school jazz class. Rhythm section applicants can be in either school jazz class.
 - Where there is no corresponding musical group offered at the student's school for their primary instrument (e.g., no string program), a student may submit an audition on that instrument; however, they must be a member of another accredited music ensemble at their school (e.g., band or choir), and apply through their school music teacher.





3. Participating teachers must be active members of WMEA/NAJME from the time of application through the time of WMEA All-State.
 - 3.1 Students who are accepted into WMEA All-State groups and then change schools may continue to participate in the group if and only if each of the following conditions is met.
 - 3.2 A residence change caused the school change, and the new school is the appropriate school for the student to attend, or the student moved between public and private schools.
 - 3.3 The old school agrees to release the student financially.
 - 3.4 The new school agrees to accept responsibility for the student.
 - 3.5 The student is participating in the appropriate music class at the new school.

SELECTION

4. The screening committees will be members of WMEA unless the WMEA All-State manager waives this requirement for specific personnel. Each group manager is responsible for verifying this information.
5. Individual screening committee members will listen to all recordings for a given section and rank the recordings in order of quality. If any recordings are considered of such poor quality (either in recording or performance) to render the performer *unacceptable* (defined as “likely detrimental to the group’s artistic success”), such recordings will be so labeled and listed alphabetically at the end of the section. The screening committee members will not determine the number of performers to be selected for the given section. Neither will the screening committee “select” the group. Their only responsibilities will be to rank all acceptable students and to designate any which may truly be so poor as to be unacceptable under any circumstances.
6. In conjunction with the conductor, the group manager will set the instrumentation or voicing for each group within the numbers assigned by the WMEA All-State Manager. When the screening committee’s results are returned to the group manager, they will cut off the rankings according to the specified instrumentation/voicing and determine the membership.
 - 6.1 If there are not enough acceptable recordings for a given instrument/voice, the group manager will be empowered to call member teachers and accept non-applying students based on the teacher’s recommendation for such positions. Those students will be subject to all eligibility policies, fees (except for the application fee), regulations, and timeliness as students applying through normal channels.
 - 6.2 The following groups will be established as WMEA All-State groups. Schools not represented in a given high school or middle school area (bands, choirs, or orchestras—excluding jazz) after the first selection will have one student added to one of the groups in that area provided that (1) the school had at least two acceptable recordings in different categories for those groups (excluding jazz) and (2) adding those students will not endanger the artistic balance of the given WMEA All-State group. The basic selection will “cut off” at 90% of the target totals; students will then be added until the groups are completed. No student accepted at the 90% level will be removed in order to ensure representation. During All-Northwest years, students accepted in All-Northwest groups will count toward school representation in the given area.
 - 6.2.1 **HIGH SCHOOL BANDS (9-12)**
 - Wind Ensemble** (Non-Northwest Conference years)
 - Wind Symphony** (schools under 750 WIAA enrollment)
 - Concert Band**
 - Philharmonic Winds**
 - Jazz Band** (Non-Northwest Conference years)





- 6.2.2 HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS (9-12)
 - Treble Choir** (SSAA)
 - Symphonic Choir** (SATB)
 - Jazz Choir** (Non-Northwest Conference years)
- 6.2.3 HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRAS (9-12)
 - Chamber Orchestra** (full orchestra; Non-Northwest Conference years)
 - Symphony Orchestra** (full orchestra)
 - Philharmonic Strings**
- 6.2.4 JUNIOR ENSEMBLES (5-8)
 - Junior Baker Band** (7-8)
 - Junior Rainier Band** (7-8)
 - Junior Mixed Choir** (7-8)
 - Junior Treble Choir** (7-8)
 - Junior Orchestra** (7-8)
 - Junior Youth Choir** (5-6)

- 7. The WMEA Board will establish student fees. Previous costs and fees will be considered when determining fees.
- 8. Each applicant will be charged an application fee, which will not be applied to later fees for those accepted.
- 9. Registration fees for those accepted *may include, but not be limited to*, the following:

Administration costs	Music
Conductors	Rehearsal site costs
Housing	Social activity
Local transportation	Souvenirs
Meals	

MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES

- 10. In the interest of student safety, NO students may bring cars to WMEA All-State.
- 11. In the interest of student safety and group management, students will be required to remain with the WMEA All-State activities for the duration, from the check-in until the end of each day’s activities. Students will not be released for school, church, family, or personal reasons, barring an emergency or another unique, extraordinary, and unexpected circumstance. If students have conflicts that arise after registration and choose not to participate in WMEA All-State, they will be subject to the published refund policy.
- 12. Students missing rehearsals without prior clearance from the WMEA All-State Manager will be subject to immediate return home. This includes but is not limited to emergencies and the school music group’s participation at the concurrent WMEA or another conference.
- 13. Either teachers or students may produce their audition recordings. Students must submit recordings to the submitting teacher for verification before submissions. Once verified, recordings may not be returned to the student. Teachers and students may NOT electronically or otherwise enhance any recordings beyond the actual recording session.
- 14. If extenuating circumstances dictate emergency needs for the smooth operation of this event, the WMEA All-State Manager is empowered to temporarily waive or change any rules to cover the given situation. A detailed report of any such decisions must be given to the WMEA board in writing at the next reasonably available opportunity.

