



## 2025 High School All-Northwest and WMEA All-State

### Housing Policy and Process

Grades 9 – 12



#### What we hope:

The WMEA board understands and appreciates that significant changes to past practices were made in 2022 and 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 *has discontinued housing and chaperoning for participants in high school honor ensembles, including All-State and All-Northwest.* Under the new protocol, WMEA will supervise students from the time they report for the first rehearsal of the day until the conclusion of that day's evening rehearsal or event. At that 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 their students are appropriately supervised at all WMEA events.

#### Rationale:

A number of concerns have been raised regarding WMEA's past 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 misconduct incidents that arise during hotel stays can be managed according to school protocols, as they would be for any other school trip. The updated 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. This process strengthens WMEA's ability to ensure student safety.

#### What This Means:

As was true for the past three years, schools will be responsible for arranging lodging for their participating students and providing school/district-approved adult chaperone(s) to supervise their students while they are at their hotel. ***With guidance from WMEA members and the All-State Task Force, WMEA will no longer provide transportation between hotels and rehearsal sites.*** This change will allow WMEA to continue to offer multiple hotel room blocks at discounted rates at different price points.

Schools are **not required to use hotels with dedicated room blocks arranged by WMEA.** WMEA encourages teachers and chaperones to consider the transit time between honor group events and hotels and plan appropriately for students to arrive on time and ready to rehearse each day. For morning rehearsals, students should arrive having already eaten breakfast. The meals served for each rehearsal schedule are included in the Schedule Overview (below).

WMEA will continue to supervise participants during all rehearsals and related All-State and All-NW activities.

#### Division of Responsibilities:

Teacher	Chaperone	WMEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow all school/district policies.</li> <li>Ensure that hotel room(s) to accommodate student(s) and chaperone(s) are reserved.</li> <li>Ensure hotel payment.</li> <li>Provide chaperone(s) staying at hotels per school and district guidelines.</li> <li>Secure safe, school and district approved transportation to and from Yakima, and between hotels and rehearsal sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure students follow school/district expectations.</li> <li>Take responsibility for student supervision at the hotel, including an expected 11:00 pm room curfew.</li> <li>Secure and transport student luggage while not at hotel.</li> <li>Ensure students are provided meals not provided by WMEA and arrive to morning rehearsals on time.</li> <li>Provide transportation between hotel &amp; rehearsal.</li> <li>Help ensure students are checked out of rooms on final day of stay.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meals during rehearsal hours. (See details below.)</li> <li>Adult supervision between first activity in the morning through last activity in the evening.</li> <li>Provide appropriate space to change into concert dress between final rehearsal and final concert.</li> <li>Secure blocks of rooms in anticipation of need at a "conference rate."</li> </ul>

## High School All-Northwest and WMEA All-State Chronological Logistics:

### Students are not permitted to drive themselves at any time.

- Friday:**
- Under school/district supervision, students are delivered to their rehearsal site for a morning inspirational session. If students have not already checked in to their hotel, school chaperones/parents need to keep student luggage with them.
  - Upon conclusion of rehearsal, WMEA will release students to school approved chaperones' supervision until the following morning. Schools/chaperones are responsible for transportation to hotels.
- Saturday:**
- School chaperones will make sure that students are up, checked out of hotel rooms, and arrive to rehearsal on time via school-approved methods of transportation.
  - 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.
  - Chaperones will provide breakfast and transport them to rehearsal site.
  - Lunch and snack between the final rehearsal and concert will be provided by WMEA as indicated on the All-State OVERVIEW.
  - WMEA provides transportation between rehearsal and concert sites. Upon conclusion of the concert, all students will be released to their school director or chaperone for safe transport home.

### Rehearsal Schedule Overview

Groups	Thursday, 2/13	Friday, 2/14	Saturday, 2/15
HS Jazz	Rehearsal 10am-12pm Lunch 12-1pm Rehearsal 1-5pm Dinner 5-6pm Rehearsal 6-8:30pm	Rehearsal 9am-12pm Lunch 12-1pm Rehearsal 1pm Dinner Concert 7:30pm	
HS Large Ensembles (All-NW AND WMEA All-State)		<i>Student Session AM</i> Rehearsal 1-4:30pm Dinner 4:30-5:30pm Rehearsal 5:30-9pm	Rehearsal 9-11am Lunch 11am-12pm Rehearsal 12-4pm Concert 4:30pm

*Rehearsal schedules & concert times are provided for planning purposes and may change.  
All schedules will be confirmed during notification & registration.*

### 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:** No. Chaperones must supervise students **overnight** once WMEA releases students each evening. Additionally, chaperones must get students up and delivered to rehearsal sites 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 within the Registration information sent to teachers of accepted students. This will include links to all available hotel blocks. **Teachers or parents** may make reservations in the WMEA room blocks at discounted prices until approximately one month prior to the event. Teachers or parents may also choose to find their lodging arrangements outside of the WMEA room blocks.

**Question:** Are teachers responsible for paying for our own rooms? Can we use a PO to pay for the room?

**Answer:** All participants, whether students, teachers, or chaperones, must pay for their own rooms. A teacher wishing to pay for a room with a PO would need to work with their school district and the hotel to make that arrangement. WMEA has negotiated specially priced room blocks at a conference rate that will expire approximately one month before the event.

**All payments will be arranged directly between hotels and the parties responsible for students or chaperones staying in those rooms. WMEA will not arrange for any payments.**

**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 share rooms if desired. Schools with honor group enrollment can coordinate lodging and supervision with participants from neighboring schools within their district and/or region. These choices are left up to teachers, in consultation with their school/district's policies.

**Question:** Are we required to use the WMEA room blocks?

**Answer:** At the membership's request, honor group participants are not required to use the WMEA-negotiated room blocks in 2025. WMEA encourages teachers and chaperones to consider the transit time between honor group events and hotels and plan appropriately for students to arrive on time and ready to rehearse each day.