NYSSBA'S ANNUAL CONVENTION & EDUCATION EXPO
OCTOBER 22-24, 2026
BUFFALO

Call For Performing Groups:
2026 New York State School Boards Association
Annual Convention & Education Expo

Application Deadline: April 10, 2026

The New York State School Boards Association is seeking the following for their
Annual Convention & Education Expo:

1. No more than 2 emerging ensembles - a musical performance group that focuses on genres and instrumentation outside of the traditional band, chorus, and orchestra paradigm. Ensembles should emphasize modern, commercial and popular music education such as rock bands, jazz combos, pop choirs. Additionally, ensembles should provide inclusive opportunities for students by using non-traditional instruments like guitars and keyboards or by incorporating music technology.

2. One marching band, 20-40 members, to open the Expo on Thursday, Oct. 22 mid-day.

3. 12 violinists from a district orchestra to perform with Steven Sharp Nelson, the Opening Keynote Speaker, on Thursday, Oct. 22 between 5-7pm. Violinists will need to learn and memorize a short passage of music (intermediate level) and play it with accurate rhythm and intonation.

Groups of all levels (elementary through high school) are encouraged to apply. The event will be held at the Buffalo Convention Center in Buffalo, NY. Performances will take place Oct. 22 or 23, 2026 and are scheduled to run approximately 10-15 minutes in length.

Criteria for selection will include performance quality, varied representation of urban, rural and suburban schools, diversity of students in the performing groups, and varied age levels of the groups. Conductors of performing organizations may find more detailed information about the application and acceptance process at the Cvent link below.

Applicants must be from a school district that is a current NYSSBA member in good standing through the 2026 calendar year. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Jennifer Kearney at jennifer.kearney@nyssba.org.

Link to application: https://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/731aa5e5-fec5-463a-af52-5eca6a581731