

SPRING 2026

Zone 1 Newsletter

March/April 2026

Festival Season 2026

ONE FINAL DEADLINE!

West Seneca East: April 17

All other festivals are CLOSED!
All-State Applications are CLOSED!

SCHEDULES

Festival schedules will be released to individual teachers **once payment is received by the festival host** (POs received from school districts can fulfill this requirement). This is a uniform requirement for all Zone 1 NYSSMA Solo & Small Ensemble Evaluation Festivals.

SCHEDULE REQUESTS

All scheduling requests are requests. Festival hosts are doing everything they can to honor scheduling requests, but please aware that it is not guaranteed that all requests can be fulfilled. Many factors at play here (accompanist schedules, number of rooms in a given instrument area, balancing requests of all teachers).

Winter Conference Performances/Session Proposals

Presenting a session or having a school group perform at the 2026 NYSSMA Winter Conference in Rochester is a great way to get involve with our statewide organization. See [Zone 1 website](#) for links to applications and information.

All-State Student Showcases

- Applications for All-State Student Showcases (piano, modern band, composers, song writers, electronic music) are open and live. See [Zone 1 website](#) for links to applications and information.

2025 All-State Certificates

Certificates/Citations from NYS Senators AND Assemblymembers have been distributed to teachers who had a student participate in or had alternate status for Conference All-State. Southern Tier folks- yours should have arrived in the mail over break! Please reach out if you have not yet received!

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Other Info

EASTMAN SUMMER INSTITUTE

Per Dr. Alden Snell: Eastman is offering a new summer music teachers institute. [Please CLICK HERE for more information about this opportunity.](#)

FESTIVAL SEASON 2027

The NYSSMA Office must have the finalized schedule of solo festivals and major organizations by June 1, 2026. Please let me know ASAP if you are interested in hosting a solo festival or MAJOR Festivals in 2027!

WORD OF THANKS

A HUGE shout out and word of thanks to all of our solo festival and major organization festival hosts who have been working tirelessly over the past few months getting everything ready for festival season! Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Area All-State 2026

For your planning:

Junior High AAS- November 6-7
Akron CSD

General Chair: Brendon Bardo
Senior High AAS- November 20-21
SUNY Fredonia
General Chair: Kevin Duncan

School Participation Fees 26-27

School Participation Fees will remain the same as the 25-26 school year. See [Zone 1 website](#) for specific details.

Endnote

For those who did not get a chance to travel somewhere tropical this spring break (or even those who): **PLEASE ENJOY!**

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Joe Sugar Day 2026

Congratulations to the Zone 1 students who performed
with the All-State Jazz Ensembles at
2026 Joseph R. Sugar Day in Albany, NY!

