

2026 JH & SH Area All-State Nomination

JH Chairperson - Brendon Bardo

SH Chairperson - Kevin Duncan

Nomination deadline is Friday, September 18th.

You DO NOT need to mail/email/submit adjudicator sheets, percussion supplement forms, or other documentation!

NYSSMA has increased the AAS registration fee to \$30. If your student(s) are selected, your district is responsible for the registration fee even if they drop out. Alternates do not pay a registration fee.

1. Go to [DaCapo Music Festivals](#) and follow the steps to sign in.
2. Check out this [“how-to” guide from DaCapo](#).
3. You may need to click the little key icon at the top of the page and/or verify your email address to get to the AAS section.
 - Please note that your DaCapo login works for both NYSSMA audition registration stuff AND for area all-state stuff. Use the key icon at the top of the page to navigate to the area all-state functions. The blue banner at the top should say “NYSSMA-AAS (DaCapo) Teacher Dashboard”.
4. On the left, click “Nominate: AAS (verified score)”. Select the division, ensemble, and your school.
 - The word “ensemble” is a little misleading here and does NOT refer to the ensemble a student may be assigned to. You are simply choosing whether to access string, wind/brass/percussion, vocal, or jazz audition records.
5. **IMPORTANT** - You will be able to see ALL of the eligible students who auditioned from your district. Only nominate students that **YOU** teach THIS YEAR.
 - If there is a student that moved into your district from another district, please email kduncan@lew-port.com or bbardo@akronk12.org so we can make the necessary changes in the database.
6. Click the blue “Nominate” button next to each student you wish to nominate. For each student, a window will pop up asking for additional information.
 - **YOU DO NOT NEED TO FILL OUT ALL THE INFO IN THIS WINDOW. ONLY CERTAIN ITEMS ARE REQUIRED.** Save yourself time and energy. Review the next page carefully to see what you need to fill in and what can be left blank.
7. After nominating your students, click “View All Nominations” on the left. Edit and adjust the “Rank” numbers as needed.



The "Nominate" Window - What to fill in, what to leave blank

Save yourself time and energy - review this page carefully! Only certain items need to be completed for student nominations. All other items can be left blank.

VERIFY that the student's grade, score, and level are accurate.

Click YES to verify that YOU are the student's teacher this year.

YES - Students must be enrolled in their respective school ensemble at least half time to participate in AAS.

YES - Complete the conference all-state question, even for JH students

NO - These sections can all be left blank. Do NOT upload a sheet. Previous scores, recommendations, all-county experience, and area all-state experience have no bearing on the selection process.

YES - If a student is applying for more than one ensemble (ie choir and band), the preference section must be completed IDENTICALLY for each nominations. Please coordinate with your colleague(s).

NO - This field should be left blank.

IMPORTANT!! - Click the green update button to save your work.

Nominate for Zone 1 Area All-State

Modify Nomination to: **None** or Area All-State

Verified Data:

Grade (in September 2026):	9
Instrument:	Violin
NYSSMA Level:	5
NYSSMA Rating:	97

Will you be the teacher of record for the student in September 2026? ☒ Yes ☐ No

An applicant must be a participating member of his/her school music organization at the time of the audition and at the time of the applicant's membership in the Area All-State organization. Participation is defined as a minimum of 50% attendance and practice at in-school rehearsals where such rehearsals are offered and at all concert performances with this same organization (Orchestra, Band, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Instrumental Jazz Ensemble or Chorus).

Is the applicant in compliance? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Was the student selected for Conference All-State? ☒ No Conference AS ☐ Alternate ☐ Band ☐ Wind Ensemble ☐ String Orchestra ☐ Symphonic Orchestra ☐ Treble Choir ☐ Mixed Choir ☐ Jazz Ensemble ☐ Vocal Jazz ☐ Vocal Jazz w/ Instrumental

Upload NYSSMA Sheet (.pdf, .jpg, .png)
No Punctuation in file name (ie. O'Malley.pdf)
Optional in some zones
No acronyms in the name (ie. Johnny's Form)
4mb file size max

Choose File No file chosen

Previous NYSSMA Scores	Grade	Level	Rating
Up to 3 years of NYSSMA Scores (Optional)			

Tone ☐ Superior ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair

Range ☐ Superior ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair

Rhythm ☐ Superior ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair

Intonation ☐ Superior ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair

Technique ☐ Superior ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair

Articulation/Diction ☐ Superior ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair

Attitude ☐ Superior ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair

Recommendation ☐ I recommend ☐ I recommend with reservation ☐ I do not recommend

Selected for All-County or Multi-County festivals in previous year? ☒ Yes ☐ No

List the student's previous Area All-State experience:

If the student is nominated for and accepted into more than one ensemble, please note the student's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd preferences.

First Preference	Second Preference	Third Preference
No Preference	No Preference	No Preference

Free to leave comments (optional) regarding this student's candidacy

Update Student

Close

Other Things to Know:

- ❖ If you notice an error in any of your students' information (name, score, level, grade, etc), please email kduncan@lew-port.com or bbardo@akronk12.org right away so it can get fixed. Names will appear in the concert program exactly as they appear in DaCapo.
- ❖ The "Rank" data under "View All Nominations" is used to sort students of the same instrument who have the same ranked score from the same school district/teacher. Those situations tend to be very rare. Nonetheless, be sure to complete this information accurately.
- ❖ **SH Only - Please enter Conference All-State placements accurately. This information impacts how students are ranked in the SH AAS master lists. DO NOT LEAVE BLANK!**
- ❖ Ensemble Preference:
 - a. Ensemble Preference comes into play ONLY when a student is being nominated under multiple categories (ie band and choir, jazz and band).
 - b. Coordinate with your colleagues on any students who are being registered for multiple ensembles. It is imperative that a first choice and second choice be selected, AND that those choices match for all entries. If the first/second choices are not specified or they do not match, the selection committee will choose.
 - c. Students and teachers do NOT have the ability to request treble vs mixed chorus, string orchestra vs symphony, or band vs symphony. Those choices are determined by the selection committee.
 - d. Remember that this is a PREFERENCE that the chairpeople try to honor. There are times, however, when we are not able to honor those preferences in order to establish appropriate instrumentation in the various ensembles.
- ❖ Upon selection, districts are responsible for paying the \$30 registration fee for all students who are accepted into an ensemble, regardless of participation. In other words, your district is on the hook for the registration fee EVEN IF A STUDENT DROPS OUT.
- ❖ Alternates who are called up DO NOT pay the registration fee.
- ❖ If the festival is canceled, all registration payments will be returned/refunded.
- ❖ We do our best to ensure that every school district that registers students is represented at the festival. A district must submit at least two students, one vocal and one instrumental, in order to justify efforts for representation.
- ❖ To un-nominate a student, simply click on the orange "un-nominate student" icon.