

The NYSSMA All-State Selection Process

1. All-State Audition Requirements

All All-State solos must be performed with accompaniment.

Pianos are provided in all All-State and voice audition rooms.

Recorded Accompaniments

Recorded accompaniments are permitted; however, students and teachers should carefully consider the challenges of performing with a recording.

- Small speakers on phones, tablets, or laptops are **not adequate**.
- The accompaniment must be played at a volume appropriate to the student's performance and comparable to a live piano accompaniment.
- The audio file must be downloaded to the device. **Streaming from the internet is not permitted.**
- The student or teacher must operate the audio equipment. **Adjudicators may not assist with the equipment.**
- Students should know the recording extremely well and be prepared to perform without the flexibility that a live accompanist can provide.
- Technical problems that cannot be resolved during the audition will result in a **Comments Only** evaluation.

2. Teacher Responsibilities

Before the Festival

Teachers are responsible for ensuring that students meet all requirements outlined in the most recent **NYSSMA Manual Edition**.

Remember the manual is updated yearly. Carefully review the specific requirements for the selected solo, including:

- Required movements
- Required key for voice
- Cadenzas
- Divisi
- Ossias
- Recitatives
- Improvisation requirements
- Any other requirements specific to the selection

Registration

Teachers should:

1. Complete the detailed online application on the NYSSMA website.
2. Register the student for the appropriate festival within their zone.
3. Verify that the student's solo and performance meet all NYSSMA requirements.
4. An All-State applicant must be a participating member of their corresponding school music organization **at the time of the audition and at the time of the applicant's membership in the All-State organization.**
5. A legitimate PERSONAL Email (student or parent) is also required

3. Adjudicator Responsibilities

All-State adjudicators evaluate students according to the requirements outlined in the NYSSMA Manual.

Scores and Recommendations

- Students receiving a **98, 99, or 100** are eligible for consideration for All-State.
- **Scores of 98 and above must be recommended** for All-State consideration.
- The adjudicator completes the **All-State Recommendation section** at the bottom of the evaluation sheet. This section is **not visible to the student or teacher**.
- The adjudicator may provide additional confidential comments and impressions for the All-State Selection Committee.

All-State Recommendation

The adjudicator indicates the student's level of All-State readiness by selecting one of the following:

- **A mature musician** who could perform the most demanding All-State music, including solo parts.
- **A strong musician** who could perform the most demanding All-State music.
- **A capable musician** who could perform All-State music.
- **The adjudicator also ranks students on a proficiency list.**

4. Zone Representative Responsibilities

Following the festivals, the Zone Representative:

- Organizes the zone's proficiency lists.
- Submits the lists to the All-State Chairs.
- Ensures that the information is complete and accurate.

5. All-State Selection Committee

The All-State Selection Committee meets at the end of June and is comprised of active All-State adjudicators.

The committee begins the selection process using the numerical criteria below.

Group 1

- **Score of 100 + #1 on the proficiency list**

Group 2

- Score of **100**, ranked #2 or lower on the proficiency list
- **Score of 99 + #1 on the proficiency list**

Group 3

- Score of **99**, ranked #2 or lower
 - **Score of 98**
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6. How Students Are Selected

The selection process begins with **Group 1 students**.

All students who receive a **100 and are ranked #1 on their zone's proficiency list** are considered before students in Groups 2 and 3. This structure is intended to provide **equitable representation from across New York State**.

Once the Group 1 students have been considered for a particular ensemble or section, the committee moves to Group 2.

The committee does **not disregard the adjudicator's proficiency rankings** when making selections.

Depending on the number of available positions and the distribution of students across the state, some sections may fill entirely with Group 1 students. In those cases, remaining Group 1 students and qualified Group 2 students may be placed on the alternate list.

For some instruments—including violin, cello, double bass, and others—the committee may select students from Group 2 and place additional Group 2 students as alternates.

When considering students within Group 2, the Selection Committee may consider:

- Adjudicator comments and/or recommendations
 - School teacher recommendations
 - Zone and/or festival-site representation
 - Student grade level, particularly grades 10 and 11
 - The needs of the ensemble
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7. Transparency and Confidentiality

The NYSSMA All-State selection process is **transparent while also maintaining necessary confidentiality**.

The process begins at the local level with the All-State adjudicator's evaluation and ranking of students. Confidentiality allows adjudicators to provide honest, unbiased feedback to the Selection Committee.

What is Confidential?

Each student is assigned a proficiency-list ranking by the adjudicator. **Proficiency-list rankings and state rankings are confidential and are not shared with students or teachers.** Adjudicators also provide confidential comments and recommendations to the Selection Committee following each All-State audition. A student may receive a score of **100** and receive either very strong supporting comments or more general comments from the adjudicator. The numerical score is only one part of the information considered during the selection process.

The Bottom Line

*The All-State selection process is designed to identify outstanding student musicians while providing **equitable representation from across New York State**. A student's score is an important part of the process, but selection also involves proficiency-list rankings, adjudicator recommendations, teacher input, geographic representation, grade level, and the needs of the ensemble. Most importantly, the process begins with the work students and teachers do at the local level. **Every audition represents a student's preparation, dedication, and love of music—and every student who participates should be proud of that accomplishment.***