

How to Get Started: For Students

1. If you're a student auditioning for an All-State Ensemble, your first step will be to find your Sponsoring Teacher. Your Sponsoring Teacher must be a member of MMEA (NAfME) in order to sponsor your participation. Your teacher will be the one to help you prepare your audition, and to create an account for uploading your audition. This teacher is typically your band/choir/orchestra teacher at your school, but they could also be a private lessons instructor or a community music group leader.
2. Next, review the [Eligibility Policies](#) with your Sponsoring Teacher to make sure that you meet all the criteria to be eligible for All-State. If there's a criteria that you feel you don't quite meet, but have other circumstances that may still make you eligible, your sponsoring teacher must submit an [Eligibility Exception Request Form](#). MMEA Staff will review the request, and let you know if you're all set or if a certain criteria still needs to be met.
3. Once you have your Sponsoring Teacher and you know that you're eligible for All-State, you should start preparing for your audition! Audition material goes live on the MMEA Auditions Website at the beginning of September every year. On the [Auditions Homepage](#), you will find a link to the page dedicated to your audition category - Vocal, Winds/Brass/Percussion (for Bands and Orchestra), Strings, Jazz, and Popular Music Ensemble. The audition page for your category will have a list of the Audition Requirements at the top as well as a link to tutorials provided by MacPhail Center for Music. Next, the audition content will be listed and linked. Each audition will require 2-3 components: scales, excerpts/etudes, and depending on the category, a solo or improvisation. Each component should be a separate video. Make sure you are reading everything carefully so you are practicing the right content for your instrument/voice part. If you or your Sponsoring Teacher ever have any questions about the audition material, please reach out to MMEA staff at auditions@mmea.org - they are MORE than happy to help with your questions!

At the bottom of the audition page, you will find a rubric. This may be a helpful resource for you to use in your preparation, so you know what judges will be using to evaluate your audition. Below the rubric, there is a link to the Eligibility and Policies page, as well as the Additional Resources. Additional Resources is where you can find visual timelines, checklists, and guides that will help you with your audition process. It's also where your Sponsoring Teacher can find resources for using the audition platform.

4. Once you feel like your materials are prepared, you can record your audition components! The recordings must be individual video files, where your face and hands are visible. You MUST have a sign visible somewhere in the video that says your first and last name and instrument/voice part. (MMEA Staff relies on those signs as they review all of the auditions to ensure that auditions are properly uploaded and judged!). All of this information and more is linked on the website, so make extra sure that you've read everything! You can record your auditions anytime that you are ready but they can't be uploaded to the audition platform until January 1st.
5. On January 1st, the audition platform will go live. This is when your sponsoring teacher can upload your audition videos. Fill out an Audition Registration Form (found on your audition website page), which helps your sponsoring teacher fill out your audition information. The deadline for audition uploading is Tuesday, March 2nd, 2027 at 12PM (NOON). The earlier you can upload your auditions, the better - that way you and your teacher have time to handle any uploading issues, and reach out to MMEA staff for assistance with minimal stress!