



Solo and Ensemble Festival Student Eligibility and Fees

West Virginia students grade 4-12 are encouraged to study and perform solo and ensemble literature. Solo and Ensemble eligibility requirements are as follows:

Public, Private, Charter School and Home School Eligibility:

1. Applicants must be enrolled in a West Virginia school recognized by the West Virginia Department of Education.
2. Applicants must fall into one of the three age categories: Elementary (grade 1-5), Middle School (grades 6-8), or Senior High (grades 9-12).
3. Applicants may attend whichever site they see fit. However, they may only attend 1 local/regional festival per scholastic year.
 - Students specializing in vocal and instrumental performance may perform at 1 local/regional festival per specialization.
4. Applicants must be sponsored by a current WVMEA / NAFME member: private and / or public teacher / instructor / director.
 - Membership must be current at the time of submission through the date of the festival.
5. Accompanists do not have to hold active membership in WVMEA / NAFME to accompany students. However, they cannot take the place of the primary sponsoring teacher / instructor / director.
6. Solo and Ensemble participants who are invited to perform on the State Honor Recital(s) must be accompanied to the WVMEA In-Service by his / her **primary sponsoring** teacher / instructor / director, who must be registered for the In-Service Conference to attend.

Fees:

All fees associated with the Solo and Ensemble festivals are due at the time of application. All festival fees are non-refundable for any reason. The fee schedule is as follows:

- Local/Regional fees: \$10.00. State Recital Submission fee: **\$20.00 (note fee increase!)**.
- Once a student or ensemble has been registered, no substitutions may be made.
- Once a registration has occurred, payment must be made on that registration regardless of whether the student chooses to participate or not.

Checks

- There will be a \$40 fee for any returned checks.
- If a returned check fee is assessed, the corresponding director and / or organization's students will not be allowed to participate in any S&E events until it is paid in full.
- Site level check payments must be received no later than one week before the festival.
- State Honors Recital submission checks must be **received by Tuesday, February 17, 2026**. Directors may need to overnight their payment to ensure this happens.

Ramifications / Sanctions:

- Should any WVMEA member sign a Solo and Ensemble application for an ineligible student, no applications signed by that WVMEA member will be accepted the following year.
- If any eligible student is found participating in more than one local/regional festival (per specialization) per scholastic year, they will be immediately removed. They will also be declared ineligible for an invitation to the State Honor Recital the next year even if they

meet the requirements. Said students will also have their festival ratings revoked. Any fees associated with Solo and Ensemble will not be returned.

- Should any WVMEA member sign more than one Solo and Ensemble application for a student in multiple regions, no applications signed by that member will be accepted the following year.

Photo Release

Site Chairs: Please share this with your festival participants. Compliance is mandatory to be considered for a State Honors Recital Invitation.

Parents and / or legal guardians of all students, both minor and of-age, who submit a recording for State Honors Recital consideration must authorize the West Virginia Music Educators Association, hereafter referred to as WVMEA, to publish photographs, film, and social media posts of minor child or children and their names and likenesses, for use in the WVMEA's print, online and video-based marketing, its contractors, its employees and any third parties involved in the creation or publication of Beaver Media Productions, from liability for any claims by any parent or any third party connection with the participators of the minor children, materials, as well as other WVMEA publications. Parents must release and hold harmless WVMEA from any reasonable expectation of privacy or confidentiality for any participating minor child and children listed in Solo and Ensemble related posts or materials, both printed and electronically.



Solo and Ensemble Festival Regulations

Solo and Ensemble Festivals throughout West Virginia are run consistently across the state. Listed below are the regulations that all participants, parents, and sites must adhere to and abide by.

Ensembles

- Ensembles may not have more than 18 members.
- Instrumental ensembles are urged to assign one player per part.
- Ensembles of 6 or less members (high school age) should not be conducted.
- Ensembles of 7 or more can be conducted if desired.
- Elementary and middle school ensembles can be conducted if desired.

Musical Selections

- There is no required music list.
- Memorization of solos is encouraged but not required.
- Ensemble music does not need to be memorized.
- Eight (8) minute maximum per each performance.
- Judges must be furnished with a copy of the sheet music with the measures numbered. Photocopies are not to be used without proof of the publisher's permission.
- If the selection calls for piano accompaniment, performers are urged to use it. However, their overall rating will not be negatively affected by the lack of accompaniment.
 - **If a student is recommended and submits for the state honor recital their Video submission MUST include a live**

accompaniment if it is written in the music unless it is specified as optional by the composer or arranger.

- SmartMusic, pre-recorded accompaniment and other like programs are permitted to be used to accompany performances ONLY at the site level.
- Students who may be selected to submit a video for consideration for the State Honors Recital **must** use a live accompanist in their recorded submissions. **The accompanist MUST be seen in the recorded submission. Under no circumstances will electronic accompaniment be permitted on the State Honors Recital.**
- Site chairs are under no obligation to provide any materials for facilitating electronic accompaniment. The student(s) / teacher are responsible for providing their own amplification, playback devices, computer, etc.
- All state honors recital performances must include a live accompaniment if it is included in the music unless it is specified as optional by the composer or arranger.

Adjudication

- All festival entries will receive a rating (1+ - 5). Judges can submit 'comments only' upon request. Request must be made before the performance begins.
- Judges will consider the grade level of each performer / ensemble:
 - Concerning mixed ensembles:
 - Ensembles with 7th and / or 8th graders will be considered a middle school ensemble.
 - Ensembles that have 9th graders or above will be considered a high school ensemble.
 - Ensembles that have all three levels represented will be adjudicated at the level of the highest performing student.
- The rating scale is as follows:
 - 1+ - Superior Plus (Exceptional) – worthy of nomination to perform at the State level.
 - 1 - Superior
 - 2 – Excellent
 - 3 – Good
 - 4 – Fair

- 5 – Developing
 - Comments Only – No rating will be given
- Judges are not permitted to aide or coach any student performer(s).
- All adjudications within a specialization must take place on the same day.
- All adjudicators must stay consistent throughout the course of the festival (For example, all percussion performances must be adjudicated by the same person.
- Judges are not permitted, under any circumstances, to participate in a performance.
- A performance may only be adjudicated once.
- Any performance receiving a Superior Plus (1+) rating shall be considered a nomination for the State Honors Recital.

Copyright / Arrangements

- Teachers and students must follow Federal copyright laws in providing music for all performers.
- Adjudicators must be provided with a legal copy of the music to be performed.
 - For photocopies to be considered legal you must have written permission from the owner / publisher of the music.
 - Attach a letter granting permission to photocopy to any copies being used.
- Teachers and students must follow Federal copyright laws concerning personal arrangements or alterations.
 - For an arrangement to be considered legal you must have written permission from the owner / publisher of the music.
 - Attach a letter granting permission to arrange to any music being used.

Inclement Weather Policy

- Every local/regional site will have a 'snow date' established in case of inclement weather.
 - If a local/regional level festival (as well as) its snow date must be cancelled due to inclement weather, all applicants for the festival may submit state honors recordings for consideration.

State Honors Recital

- Performances receiving a rating of 1+ and a recommendation from their respective judge (on the local level) may submit a **video recording** of their performance to be considered for inclusion in the State Honors Recital held during the annual In-Service.
- Additional applications and fees must be completed and submitted. See guidelines below.
- Submitted recordings will be adjudicated by an Honors Recital Committee.

Honors Recital Submission Guidelines

- All submissions must be submitted no later than **Tuesday, February 17, 2026**. The submission link will be provided on the WVMEA Solo and Ensemble website.
- Directors are highly encouraged to pay by credit / debit card. Payment by check should only be done in the case of absolute necessity.
 - Check payments of **\$20** (per submission) MUST be **received** by **Tuesday, February 17, 2026** for State Honors Recital submissions. Many directors may need to overnight their payment to ensure this happens.
 - See the "fees" section above for further information concerning check payments.

Recordings

- Recordings **must** be submitted using **video** digital media.
- Due to size restrictions on the website, all recordings must use a weblink for submission. MP3 or MP4 format is suggested.

- The Solo and Ensemble State Chair will send the submission link to site chairs.
- **It is the responsibility of the director to ensure that video privacy / share settings allow for adjudicator access without having to request permissions.**
- If you need assistance with this, please reach out to the S&E State Chair as soon as possible for assistance.
- All soloists and small ensemble members must be visible in the video.
 - Large ensembles should include as many members as possible in the video.
 - Accompanists MUST be included in the video.
- A photo release form must be submitted for each student. The photo release may be found on the WVMEA Solo and Ensemble website.
- Electronic accompaniments are not permitted on the State Honors Recital. Therefore, all submissions must include a live accompaniment if the work calls for it.

To the Adjudicators:

- Adjudicators will be paid \$75 for a half day of work (up to 4 hours) and at least \$150 for a full day of work (any time over 4 hours). Due to various site differences, site chairs may use discretion on the amount of an adjudicator's payment.
- All adjudicators must hold an undergraduate degree in music or a professional equivalent.
- All adjudicators must complete the free NFHS Music Adjudication course once every 5 years. Proof of completion must be submitted to the Site Chair before you may adjudicate any students.
 - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses>
- Certificates should be awarded for '1' and "1+" ratings.
- Solo and Ensemble is an educational experience, make comments as positive and constructive as possible.
- Sign each ratings sheet.
- Submit ratings to site chairs.

- Only performances receiving a 1+ and a nomination from their respective judge (on the local level), will be considered to submit for the State Honors Recital process.
- Adjudicators must follow instructions by their site chair(s) regarding compensation and/or paperwork. All needed paperwork should be completed in a timely fashion in order to be paid accordingly. Contact your Site Chair for further details.

To the Site Chairs:

- Site Chairs must be active members of the West Virginia Music Educators' Association by September 1st of each year.
- All Site Chairs must complete the free NFHS Music Adjudication course once every five years. Proof of completion must be submitted to the state chair before September 1st of every 5th year.
- Site Chairs are responsible for enforcing all the rules and regulations above to the best of their ability.
- State recital nomination sheets should be completed by the judges before leaving the site. The Site Chair is to collect the following information for all 1+ nominations: Student name, School, Director, Solo/Ensemble, Title of Piece and Nominating Judge. This information is to be sent to the State Chair.
- All Site Chairs must attend the Solo and Ensemble meeting at the annual WVMEA In-Service. Any unavoidable absences must be cleared with the Solo and Ensemble State Chair ahead of time. If approved, a proxy or representative must be sent in their place.