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 **IESA**



IESA MUSIC

HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO IESA MUSIC

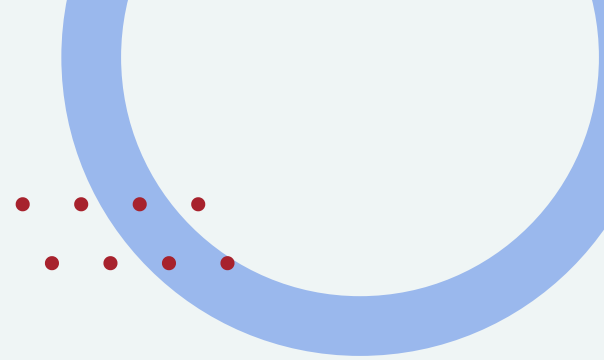


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www.iesa.org



WELCOME & HISTORY

01

The IESA conducted its first music contest in both Solo and Ensemble and Organization in 1934. State music contests are held under the by-laws and direction of the IESA with suggestions for change and improvement from the IESA Music Advisory Committee. The committee is composed of directors throughout the state as well as an administrator from a member school. Committee members must be working as an active music director.

Welcome to IESA Music! Whether you are a new music director or a director who is returning to IESA music, we are excited that you have chosen to participate this school year. The IESA Music contests allow students not only to express themselves creatively but also to gain self-confidence throughout their performances. We hope you find the enclosed information helpful. Please reach out to the IESA if you have questions.

Solo & Ensemble: Held in 11 different contest areas throughout the state, taking place on four different dates, the host site selects the contest date that works best.

Organization: Held in 9 areas throughout the state typically in April or May.



RULES & REGULATIONS

02

Each year the IESA updates the Music Terms and Conditions which guides the activity of music. Please be sure to review the Terms and Conditions, also please review the eligibility regulations for all participants. Every school participating must be a current member of the IESA for participation.

Students in grades 5-8 from the IESA Member Schools are eligible to participate.

Solo & Ensemble

January 29, 2026: Host Deadline (each area must have a designated host site)

February 5, 2026: Entry Deadline (all events must be purchased and paid for)

February 13, 2026: Participant Information Deadline

S&E Contest Dates: March 21, 28 and April 11, 18 (Host School selects)

Organization

January 29, 2026: Host Deadline (each area must have a designated host site)

February 5, 2026: Entry Deadline (all events must be purchased and paid for)

March 31, 2026: Participant Information Deadline

Org. Contest Dates: May 1st or 2nd

A school within your contest area will serve as the host school. The date of your area's contest will be determined by the host school. Schools are not able to transfer areas if no school in the area has agreed to host by the deadline. Those hosting deadline is January 29th.

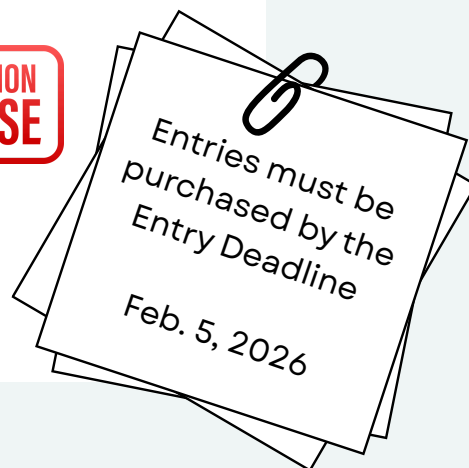




ENTRY FEES & CATEGORIES

ENTRY FEES

S&E Fees		Org Fees	
Piano Solo	\$10.00	Orchestra	\$65.00
String Solo	\$10.00	Jazz Band	\$65.00
Percussion Solo	\$10.00	Jazz Band	\$65.00
Brass Solo	\$10.00	Concert Band	\$65.00
Woodwind Solo	\$10.00	Show Choir	\$65.00
Vocal Solo	\$10.00	Chorus	\$65.00
Piano Duet	\$15.00		
Mixed Instrumental Ensemble	\$15.00		
String Ensemble	\$15.00		
Percussion Ensemble	\$15.00		
Woodwind Ensemble	\$15.00		
Brass Ensemble	\$15.00		
Choir Chime Ensemble	\$15.00		
Vocal Ensemble	\$15.00		
Choir Chime Choir	\$27.00		
String Choir	\$27.00		
Instrumental Choir	\$27.00		
Vocal Choir	\$27.00		



CATEGORIES

S&E - VOCAL SOLOS

- Individual is required to perform one or two selections by memory.
- Final ratings shall be lowered one division if it is necessary to read any portion of the score.
- 6-minute time limit.

S&E - VOCAL ENSEMBLES

- Shall consist of 2-8 students, boys, girls or mixed.
- Required to perform one or two selections by memory.
- 2-5 students must sing a minimum of two parts.
- More than 5 students must sing a minimum of three parts (does not include a descant)
- If comprised of only 5th/6th grade students, they may sing all selections in two parts.
- 6-minute time limit

S&E - VOCAL CHOIRS

- Shall consist of 9-16 students, boys, girls or mixed.
- Required to perform one or two selections by memory.
- At least one selection must be in three parts (a descant does not count as an independent voice)
- Time between selections does not count toward the time limit.
- If comprised of only 5th/6th grade students, they may sing all selections in two parts.
- 6-minute time limit.

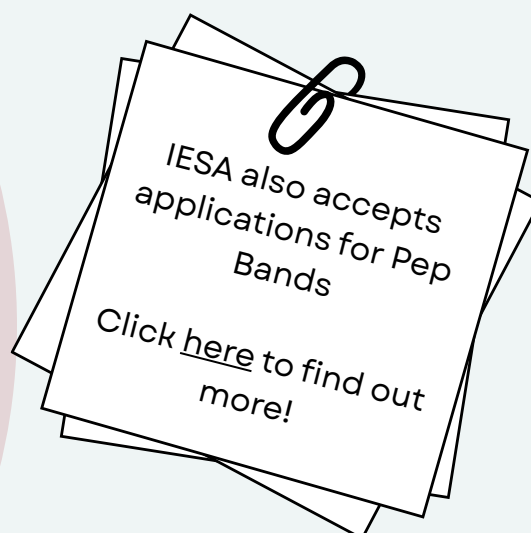
S&E - INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS

- Individual shall perform one selection.
- One bonus point shall be awarded if selection is memorized.
- Solo may be performed on an instrument that is called for in the score.
- Drum sets are permitted.
- Amplified instruments, performers will be required to provide all of their own equipment.
- 6-minute time limit.

- Shall consist of 2-5 students, playing as many parts as there are members of the ensemble.
- Shall consist of woodwind, brass, or percussion including traps, or string instruments or choir chimes, or mixed woodwind and brass.
- Time between selections does not count toward the time limit.
- Piano duets on one piano shall be offered as an event.
- Ensembles which do not have all required parts covered shall not be judged nor rated but shall be permitted to perform.
- If the accompanist is called for in the score, then it must be provided.
- 6-minute time limit.

S&E - INSTRUMENTAL CHOIRS

- Shall consist of 6-16 students.
- Shall consist of woodwind, brass, or percussion including traps, or string, or choir chimes, or mixed woodwind, brass and percussion instruments.
- Shall perform one or two selections within the time limit.
- Music designated as instrumental choir music or at least four-part music may be used.
- More than one student may play a part written for instrumental choirs.
- Time between selections does not count toward the time limit.
- The band or orchestra should choose selections that shall challenge the student's abilities.
- Choirs which do not have all the required parts covered shall not be judged or rated but shall be permitted to perform.
- 6-minute time limit.



ORG. - CONCERT BANDS

- No minimum number of performers required.
- Required to perform two or three contrasting selections, one of which must be a march.
- Bands consisting of 5th/6th graders are not required to perform a march but may perform a march if desired.
- Time between selections does not count toward the time limit.
- A single voiced electronic bass or electronic keyboard may be used as a bass lined instrument in concert band.
- 15-minute time limit.

ORG. - JAZZ BAND

- Minimum of nine (9) enrolled members required.
- Required to perform two or three contrasting selections, one of which must be a swing-style selection.
- The time between selections does not count toward time limite.
- 15-minute time limit.

ORG. - ORCHESTRAS

- No minimum number of enrolled members.
- Required to perform two or three contrasting selections in the time limit.
- Time between selections does not count toward the time limit.
- 15-minute time limit.

ORG. - CHORUSES

- No minimum number of enrolled members: boys, girls or mixed.
- Required to perform two or three selections by memory, one which shall be in three indicated voices (a descent does not count as an independent voice)
 - Note: the cover music will list the three parts: Ex. SSA=soprano, soprano, alto
- Time between selections does not count toward the time limit.
- Accompanied & A Capella choruses which have only 5th/6th grade students may sing all sections in two parts.
- 12-minute time limit.

- A minimum of eight (8) enrolled members required.
- Required to perform two or three selections by memory, one of which shall be a “swing” style selection.
- Time between selections does not count toward time limit.
- Jazz choirs having only 5th/6th grade students may sing all selections in two parts.
- There may be movement of the contestants during the performance of the event; however, jazz choirs will be judged primarily on the musical performance of the group.
- 15-minute time limit.

ORG. - SHOW CHOIRS

- A minimum of twelve (12) enrolled members required.
- Required to perform two or three selections by memory, one of which shall be in three indicated voices (a descent does not count as an independent voice).
 - Note: The cover of the music will list the three parts; Ex. SSA = soprano, soprano, alto
- The time between selections does not count toward the time limit.
- Show choirs having only 5th/6th graders may sing all selections in two parts.
- There shall be movement of the contestants during the performance of this event.
- 15-minute time limit.

WHERE CAN SELECTIONS BE FOUND?

It is the responsibility of the director to make sure that all copyright requirements are met. The IESA requires all instructors to provide an original copy of the score to each judge. When buying and printing music from an online source, make sure that the music provided to the judge at contest includes a receipt for the music. This will meet the original score requirement. Below are some ideas for finding music.

1. Books that contain a collection of solos for each instrument is an economical way to go.
2. *JW Pepper* offers a large selection of sheet music. <https://www.jwpepper.com/>
3. *Sheet Music Plus* is another online music store. <https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SCHEDULING

As soon as you receive the schedule from the host school, please review with your participants.

Provide each participant with information about where and when they will be performing, bus departure times, a map of the venue, behavior expectations, acceptable dress and any other information that pertains to your hosting site.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Tone, intonation, balance, technique, rhythm, and interpretation are some of the criteria used in judging. There are other factors considered for specific instrumentation as well as general factors such as posture and stage presence. Please check the music activity page on the IESA website for specific adjudication criteria.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students who participate in any IESA music contest must be academically eligible. It is the responsibility of the director to check eligibility on an ongoing basis beginning in January in order to ensure that all students meet the eligibility requirement.

LATE FEES

Events must be purchased and paid for (postmarked) by the entry deadline to be accepted at the regular fee rate.

After the deadline, all event changes for S&E must include a \$25 fee made payable to the host school. Participant name changes within an entry or the elimination of an entry will continue to be accepted by the hosts with no penalty.

Entry Deadline is February 5, 2026



PURCHASING INFORMATION

09

Purchasing Events for Music Contest

1. Go to the IESA homepage at www.iesa.org.
2. Click on the red box - School & Official Log in located at the top right of the webpage.
3. Select your school (listed by town / city) and enter your school password (your school administrator will have this information)
4. Click the red Registration Box for to gain access to Music Contest (this will be at the bottom of screen)
5. Continue through all steps of the registration process, clicking proceed.
6. An invoice will be generated as the final page of the process and a confirmation email will be sent to the email address you provided during the registration process.
7. Submit your invoice to your bookkeeper/business manager and be sure to mail a copy of the invoice and check to the IESA office for the entire amount due.

Note: The IESA only accepts school issued checks. Please make sure that your school has enough time to cut the check and get it postmarked by the entry deadline.

Entering Participant Information

Once the payment has been received by the IESA office, a music password and instructions on how to enter your participant information will be sent.

1. Access the website using the music password that had been emailed to you.
2. Upon entering the site using the music password, you will be asked to enter your name and email address.
3. After entering the director information, you will then create a list of students and accompanists.
4. Use this list of participants and enter them into the specific events.
5. Indicate an accompanist if needed and the specific selection information.

Repeat for all entries.

