



MUSIC ADVISORY

Minutes and Recommendations

May 28, 2026

In-person Meeting

The following members were present for the meeting: Jackie Litwiller (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Curtis Fischer-Oelschlager (director at Taylor Ridge Rockridge), Sarah Lidy (director at Maroa-Forsyth), George Caton (director at Cuba MS) and Heather Setzer (director at Marshall JHS). Matt Hibbets (director at Bismarck Henning), Amy Schneider (director at Bradley Central) and Mark Hughes (Principal at Monticello) were unable to attend.

The IESA Music Advisory Committee, in its meeting on May 27, 2026, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors in its June meeting:

Recommendation 1:

- Current:** The entry deadline is February 4, 2027, for both S&E and Org. The participation deadline for S&E is February 12th.
- Proposed:** Move the entry deadline to February 12th for both S&E and Org (Friday, Week 32) and the participation deadline for S&E to Tuesday, February 23rd (Tuesday, Week 34).
- Rationale:** This will give the Music Directors more time to have those conversations with their student performers and make sure they are purchasing the correct entries.
- MU T&C** II. State Contest Dates and Sites
Admin Vote 4-0
Board Action **Approved**

Recommendation 2:

- Current:** No current IESA Language
- Proposed:** Allow for doubling of parts in instrumental / vocal ensembles.
1. Doubling of parts is permitted in instrumental ensembles but may not exceed two players per part.
 2. Doubling of parts is permitted in vocal ensembles but may not exceed four players per part with a maximum of eight performers.
- Rationale:** Performing in ensembles can be challenging for younger performers or those with diverse needs. Allowing for doubling of parts (example: 4 players playing a 2-part ensemble) is helpful for these performers to have more success and confidence is performing.

MU T&C VII. Solo & Ensembles A. 2. Vocal Ensembles – Additional Information and B. 2
Instrumental Ensembles – Additional Information
Admin Vote 4-0
Board Action **Approved**

D. Additional Discussion Topics

- 1) Increase the accompaniment to 30 per person – no action.
- 2) Changing the point system – no action.
- 3) Instruct judges to use more detailed information – information is already in the hosting manual, up to the hosts to communicate with the judges and attending directors on how judges will communicate to the students. For example: some hosts instruct the judges to give more verbal feedback to the students.
- 4) Move/Change Organization Contest dates – no action
- 5) Reviewed numbers of National Anthem and Pep Band Performances.
- 6) Reviewed 2026 contest participation numbers – IESA will put together a flyer for all school mailing.
- 7) Reviewed host sites that are already secured for 2027.
- 8) Discussed adding more online materials in the hosting center will work the IT to make that happen.

E. Points of Emphasis – The benefits of participating in educational based music programs.
Continue to monitor the numbers in Music Organization participation.

F. Selection of Distinguished Service Award – Brent Ritter, Casey-Westfield (Retired 2026)

G. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 27, 2027, at 10am. (Virtual)