

Music Advisory Committee – Meeting Summary
Held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at MSHSAA Office, Columbia, MO

1 – Recommend that the following rules and process changes be adopted for Sight Reading - Large Group Ensemble Festival. This would include all necessary changes to the MSHSAA Music Manual Section 6 and other relevant areas in the manual starting in 2026-2027.

Vocal

1. Sight Reading allotted time increased to 20 minutes.
2. All Mixed Choirs regardless of classification may perform SAB/SATB
3. Directors will be provided 2 minutes of time to study score – may mark score with sticky notes
4. Vocal ensembles will be provided 6 minutes of instructional time – allowable timing splits may be 6-0, 5-1, 4-2, 3-3, 2-4, 1-5, or 0-6 between two readings – directors do not have to use all 6 minutes.
5. Students may sing or hum individually, in small groups, or with full ensemble – during any full ensemble singing the selection may not be sung in whole during instructional period. No more than 8 consecutive measures plus a down beat may be sung by the full ensemble. Students and directors may work/talk through the selection from beginning to end working on difficult passages etc. but there may not be a full performance.
6. Students may audibly sing/hum starting pitches
7. During first reading the director may provide verbal instructions and the director may sing up to 1 full measure with a section to aid recovery and may only be done twice during the first reading. During second reading the director may not provide any verbal or audible instructions or singing – directing only.
8. Only the director may indicate to adjudicator if the ensemble must stop and request a regrouping opportunity and may only do this once during either reading and will indicate the measure or rehearsal number. The director may ask for support from the adjudicator regarding a good place to regroup if necessary. This regrouping may be done without penalty. The director may play starting pitches of the regrouping measure and students may hum/sing pitches and director may count off the group.

Instrumental

1. Directors will be provided 2 minutes of time to study score – may mark score with sticky notes.
2. Schools with multiple directors – those additional directors may support band with set up and distribution of music.
3. Instrumental ensembles will be provided a 10-minute instructional period.
4. Students may sing, hum, or play parts individually, in small groups, or with full ensemble – the selection may not be played in whole during instructional period. No more than 16 consecutive measures plus a downbeat may be played by the full ensemble. Students and director may work/talk through the selection from beginning to end working on difficult passages etc. but there may not be a full performance.
5. The students and director may sing or hum and/or count, clap, and tap rhythms during the instructional period.
6. During the performance reading the director may not provide any verbal or audible instructions.

7. Only the director may indicate to adjudicator if the ensemble must stop and request a regrouping opportunity and may only do this once and will indicate the measure or rehearsal number. The director may ask for support from the adjudicator regarding a good place to regroup if necessary. This regrouping may be done without penalty.
8. Instrumental Band – After the instructional period tonality may be established and/or tune for 30 seconds and then begin performance
9. Instrumental Orchestra – During the tuning process before and after the 10 instructional period tuning is allowed on open strings only

2 – Recommend that the MSHSAA office research and implement a standardized calendar window for all district solo & small ensemble and state large group ensemble festivals. This research will be completed in the next school year (2026-2027) with implementation starting no later than 2028-2029 school year.

The starting point for this standardization will be the following; however further study and feedback may alter these suggested standardized weeks:

District Solo & Small Ensemble Festivals – Week 36 through the end of Week 38
State Large Group Ensemble Festivals – Week 37 through the end of Week 39

*** 3 – Recommend that MSHSAA office/staff formally explore and seek approval for the development and implementation of competitive music opportunities. These competitive opportunities include Contemporary A cappella, Marching Band, Show Choir, and Jazz Band. These competitive opportunities would include a championship style format and result in ranked/placed ensembles from participating schools. It is further recommended that the first competitive opportunity be a Contemporary A cappella competition due to its current relatively small size across the state, and would provide a proof of concept and financial viability.

*** 4 – Recommend that MSHSAA consolidate ~~remove~~ piano events in from the current festival structure and instead establish a separate district piano festivals with fewer districts and a larger regions-based approach (no less than 4 and no more than 8 total districts representing regional areas of the state).

5 – Recommend that MSHSAA Music Manual 3-A-3 be altered to allow vocal small ensembles to perform one selection from the MSHSAA PML and one selection not on the PML. Additionally update the rule to reflect that when performing a vocal small ensemble that is off the PML that it must align with the registered event type and be festival quality literature. Not matching the event type or using literature that is not appropriately aligned with festival standard will result in a lower rating.

6 – Recommend that the PML review cycle for new works across all areas be shortened from its current three-year rotation amongst winds, vocal, and strings be shortened to two years. Percussion literature is already reviewed annually.

* 7 – Recommend that a rule be added to the MSHSAA Music Manual 2-D – Limitations on Entries -to allow for an appeal process for District Solo & Small Ensemble Festival entry limits that allows schools to request up to ten (10) additional entries beyond the established maximums in each listed category. The appeal shall be made to the MSHSAA Director of Music Activities. Approval of additional entries shall be contingent upon available festival capacity, must include input from the appropriate district manager, and must be submitted prior to the opening of festival

registration. Approval is not guaranteed and will be based on established criteria and available capacity.

8 – Recommend that MSHSAA Music Manual 7-A-3 be updated to indicate all approved MSHSAA Music Adjudicators must either hold a valid state music teaching certificate or a relevant degree in music education or music performance to be an approved MSHSAA Music Adjudicator.

9 – Recommend that MSHSAA explore and attempt to pilot a digital adjudication process for large group ensemble festivals. This is contingent upon the capacity to develop and/or integrate an existing product in MSHSAA systems related to festival management.

* **Denied**
** **Tabled**
*** **Approved as Amended**
**** **No Action**
All Others Approved