

MSHSAA Prescribed Graded Music List
Vocal Matrix

VOCAL SOLOS

Criteria	Grade C	Grade B	Grade A
Vocal Range	The range is primarily within an octave – moderate tessitura.	The range frequently exceeds an octave – moderate tessitura.	The range frequently exceeds an octave and/or has extreme tessitura.
Melodic Design	Simple strophic or binary form; average phrase length 2-4 measures; melody uses mostly stepwise movement.	Complex strophic or binary form; average phrase length 4 measures; melody uses some disjunct movement.	Through-composed or advanced forms; average phrase length 4 or more measures; melody frequently uses disjunct movement.
Dynamic Range	Primarily within two dynamic levels.	Uses more than two dynamic levels and/or utilizes contrasting levels.	Frequent dynamic changes and/or utilizes extreme levels.
Tempo	Moderate pace with minimal tempo changes.	Employs some tempo variations within the sections.	Utilizes multiple variations in tempo and/or uses extreme tempo markings.
Text	Uses minimal or repetitive text.	Moderate length of text; diction is more challenging.	Text is moderate to extended in length; diction is extremely challenging.
Harmonic Structure	Mostly built on basic chord progressions; with limited or no variation in tonal center.	Some use of altered chords and/or use of related tonal centers.	Frequent use of altered chords and/or atypical modulations.
Rhythmic Elements	Simple rhythm and meter with limited metric changes.	Use of compound meter and more complex rhythms.	Asymmetrical or mixed meters or extensive use of complex rhythms.
Accompaniment	Mostly doubles or harmonically supports the melody.	Moves more independently from the melody.	Independent from or in contrast to the melody or is a cappella.
Definitions	Moderate Tessitura – most of the notes lie within the area of a perfect fifth and in the center of the vocal range.	Extreme Tessitura – most of the notes lie closer to the extremes of the vocal range.	

MSHSAA Prescribed Graded Music List
Vocal Matrix

VOCAL ENSEMBLES

Criteria	Grade C	Grade B	Grade A
Vocal Range	Each part is primarily within an octave; moderate tessitura.	One or more voices frequently exceed an octave; moderate tessitura.	Most voices frequently exceed octave; two or more voices have extreme tessitura.
Melodic Design	Simple strophic or binary form; average phrase length 2-4 measures; melody uses mostly stepwise movement.	Complex strophic or binary form; average phrase length 4 measures; melody uses some disjunct movement.	Through-composed or advanced forms; average phrase length 4 or more measures; melody frequently uses disjunct movement.
Dynamic Range	Primarily within two dynamic levels.	Uses more than two dynamic levels and/or utilizes contrasting levels.	Frequent dynamic changes and/or utilizes extreme levels.
Tempo	Moderate pace with minimal tempo changes.	Employs some tempo variations within the sections.	Utilizes multiple variations in tempo and/or uses extreme tempo markings.
Text	Uses minimal or repetitive text.	Moderate length of text; diction is more challenging.	Text is moderate to extended in length; diction is extremely challenging.
Harmonic Structure	Mostly built on basic chord progressions; with limited or no variation in tonal center.	Some use of altered chords and/or use of related tonal centers.	Frequent use of altered chords and/or atypical modulations.
Texture	Homophonic and homorhythmic; with no divisi.	Simple polyphony and/or mostly homophonic and/or homorhythmic; some divisi.	Advanced polyphony and/or frequent divisi.
Rhythmic Elements	Simple rhythm and meter with limited metric changes.	Use of compound meter and more complex rhythms.	Asymmetrical and mixed meters or extensive use of complex rhythms.
Accompaniment	Mostly doubles or harmonically supports the voices.	Moves more independently from voice parts and/or is a cappella.	Independent from or in contrast to voice parts and/or is a cappella.
Definitions	Moderate Tessitura – most of the notes lie within the area of a perfect fifth and in the center of the vocal range.	Extreme Tessitura – most of the notes lie closer to the extremes of the vocal range.	