



DCMEA

In Pursuit of Performance and Promise

DCMEA Festival Policies (revised 2019)

Eligibility & Application Policies:

1. **Public or Private School students** – The student must currently participate in their school’s ensemble(s). The student will only be eligible to apply for participation in a DCMEA All-County Ensemble of the same type and on the same or “like” instrument with which they currently participate in school. If the student’s school does not offer the ensemble for which they are seeking All-County participation, or the student is unable (for any reason) to participate in the school group, they must participate in a performing ensemble of the same type outside of school.
2. **Private Studio students** – The student must apply for participation in a DCMEA All-County Ensemble through the music department of the DCMEA member school in which they attend. This same DCMEA member school’s music department will decide whether or not to register the private studio student through their district. If the district music department agrees to register these students, then cooperation and communication is essential. It is the responsibility of the private studio teacher to acquire, complete and submit application forms and proficiency lists to the district music department by the district’s deadline. In addition, the private studio student must currently participate in either their school’s ensemble or an outside-of-school performing ensemble of the same type and on the same or “like” instrument for which they are seeking All-County participation. Applications submitted to the Festival Committee will only be accepted from a participating DCMEA member school’s music department.
3. **Home Schooled students** – The student must request to apply for participation in a DCMEA All-County Ensemble through the music department of the DCMEA member school district in which they reside. This same DCMEA member school’s music department will decide whether or not to register the home schooled student through their district. If the district music department agrees to register these students, then cooperation and communication is essential. It is the responsibility of the private studio teacher to acquire, complete and submit application forms and proficiency lists to the district music department by the district’s deadline. In addition, the home schooled student must currently participate in either their school’s ensemble or an outside-of-school performing ensemble of the same type and on the same or “like” instrument for which they are seeking All-County participation. Applications submitted to the Festival Committee will only be accepted from a participating DCMEA member school’s music department.

Festival Fees Payment Policy

All decisions regarding payment of any festival fees must be made at the DCMEA member school district level.

Transportation Policy

All decisions regarding any festival transportation must be made at the DCMEA member school district level.

Student Supervision Policies

1. Students must be chaperoned by a teacher or administrator from their school at all times during a festival.
2. Student supervision is subject to the policies of the DCMEA member school district in which the student resides.
3. Private studio teachers may be required to supervise their students for the duration of the festival.

Student Participation Policies

1. Every participant must attend all scheduled rehearsals for the full time in order to perform in the Festival Concert. *Failure to comply will result in dismissal from the All-County Ensemble and its Festival Performance.*
2. Every participant is responsible for the care and return of all festival music. Only light pencil marks should be used on the music. The music **MUST** be returned in very good condition at the end of the Festival Concert.

Lost or damaged music will incur a replacement fee of \$7.00 per title, billed to the student.



Current DCMEA Policies

1. Each ensemble should be made up of the best student performers in the county, with every attempt made by the selection committee to represent every school.
2. Junior High All County Chorus, Elementary Band and Elementary Orchestra selection is based on an audition process. Information on the auditions is shared with teachers in the early fall each year.
3. Junior High Band, Wind Ensemble, and Orchestra is selected based on previous year NYSSMA scores, then teacher recommendation, and finally, teacher provided proficiency lists. NYSSMA scores must be listed in Solo/Chair and copies of NYSSMA sheets must be provided to ensemble chairs by the October 15 due date.
4. Elementary Chorus allotments are decided based on student enrollment (per teacher). Surveys go out in the early fall and allotments are provided to teachers by November 1.
5. Private studio teachers who wish to submit their students for application in DCMEA All County Festivals must do so through the student's local school district's music teacher. The private teacher and the school music teacher will need to come to an agreement upon legal and organizational responsibilities, enrollment fees, chaperoning requirements, and transportation.
6. Student participants MUST attend all festival rehearsals for the full time scheduled in order to perform in the Festival Concert. Failure to attend ANY rehearsal will result in dismissal from the All County Ensemble and its Festival Performance.
7. Teachers or a building administrator must chaperone their district's music students AT ALL TIMES during the festival. Parents and guardians may not serve as chaperones.
8. Eligible students who apply for either Elementary All County Band or Elementary All County Orchestra must attend a live audition, which will be held in January of the festival year. Audition music information will be supplied to the appropriate DCMEA members by each Ensemble Chairperson during the fall of the same festival year. These DCMEA members may submit an application for each eligible student who cannot attend the audition, with the understanding that these students will not be given consideration until AFTER all students who attended the live audition have been evaluated.
9. Teachers must adhere to all festival deadline dates established by each festival's committee. Failure to do so may render their school's student's ineligible to participate in the current year's festival.
10. Each Dutchess County school/school district must pay DCMEA a yearly participation fee to participate in DCMEA festivals. The fee is based on the number of music teachers employed multiplied by \$15 per music teacher. This fee is due at the start of each academic year.

All exceptions to the above policies are subject to DCMEA approval.

Date Adopted: April 21, 2009
Revisions Adopted: August 22, 2019

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Revisions Implemented: September 1, 2019