

TO: TMEA Executive Board
TMEA Region Presidents
TMEA Region Representatives to Music Advisory Committee

FROM: Bradley N. Kent, UIL State Director of Music

DATE: July 2024

SUBJECT: Agenda for TMEA/UIL Music Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 24th at 5:00 PM in CC 212/213 in conjunction with the TBA/TODA/TCDA Conventions.

After an opening general session to discuss items relating to all three divisions, we will divide into the respective divisions - band/vocal/orchestra - to consider items unique to each division. The TMEA President and I will preside over the general session and the three respective state division vice-presidents will preside over the division sessions. It is important that the TMEA division vice presidents chairing each session appoint someone to take minutes so that all deliberation and action taken can be properly recorded.

- **Discussion Items** will be considered for vote at this meeting only after that item is presented and voted upon at the spring region meetings. A Discussion Item that receives a favorable vote at the summer meeting will become an Action Item the following year and receive a vote at the spring region meetings and again at the summer MAC meeting. Any new discussion item that originates from the division sessions at this meeting may also be brought forward and will be sent to the regions in April for discussion and vote.
- **Action Items** originated as Discussion Items in the previous year and received a favorable vote by the summer MAC meeting for further consideration. Action Items that receive a favorable vote at this meeting will receive further consideration through the UIL process.
- Note that **three years must elapse** prior to a proposal being reconsidered.

The following agenda contains topics that have been submitted for **Action** or **Discussion**.

ALL DIVISIONS

DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 10 and Region 6 General Membership.

PROPOSAL: UIL create protected dates for music events for all divisions.

RATIONALE: Organizations that share students/directors are often presented with conflicts as regions are selecting dates for the various UIL adjudicated contests. Separating events into exclusive dates will all but eliminate those potential conflicts. UIL Music Concert and Sightreading events have been reclassified to evaluations that are closely tied to the TEKS. Unlike contests, music evaluations do not lead to advancement or additional rounds of competition. However, under current UIL policy, events that do

lead to advancement are provided scheduling priority over UIL Concert & Sightreading Evaluations. To address this discrepancy, UIL music evaluations should have the same scheduling privileges as UIL academic events, including statewide protected dates, which would allow dedicated time for UIL leaders, event hosts, and participants, to include securing venues and finding adjudicators.

DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 10 General Membership.

PROPOSAL: UIL extend the window for region solo and ensemble contests to later in the spring.

RATIONALE: Many students are preparing Solo & Ensemble material while also preparing for Area round auditions in the All-State process. Extending this window would allow the strongest players in our ensembles to focus on each of these major competitions with minimal overlap in preparation.

DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 10 General Membership.

PROPOSAL: UIL regions have calendars set by April 1st of the preceding academic year.

RATIONALE: The release of UIL dates in April will allow districts to better prepare their event calendars for the upcoming school year.

VOCAL DIVISION

No Proposals

ORCHESTRA DIVISION

ACTION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 16 Orchestra Division.

UIL Rule Change Proposal Regarding Sub NV Concert and SR Levels.

Rationale: Sub-NV orchestras are mentioned only once in the C&CR, and there are currently no criteria for Sub-NV Orchestras that have been implicitly or explicitly stated, with the lone exception being the addition of an extra minute in Sightreading. Currently, the accepted expectation is for Sub-NV groups to play with the same stage provisions and Sightreading selection as NV groups. The recommendation is being made that Stage and Sightreading performance criteria for Sub-NV ensembles be included in the C&CR.

Recommendations:

Stage: Currently, Sub-NV orchestras are expected to prepare and perform the same stage criteria as NV groups. However, these students are often the most in need of extra support to build and refine skill development. With the current performance

requirements for Sub-NV ensembles, directors are afforded no opportunity to differentiate their instruction to accommodate learning gaps that are present. Therefore, we recommend that the stage performance requirements for Sub-NV ensembles be adjusted so that Sub-NV ensembles perform music that is one level lower than NV ensembles. If there is no availability to perform one level lower, as would be the case for MS Sub-NV, we would propose a further modification in the requirements: Grade 1, Choice, Choice.

Sightreading: Currently, Sub-NV Sightreading requirements do offer differentiation by including an additional minute for the instruction period. NV ensembles currently read two levels below the Varsity level on stage, with the same requirement for Sub-NV. Therefore, we recommend that the Sightreading requirements for Sub-NV ensembles be adjusted so that Sub-NV ensembles continue to include the extra minute of preparation, but to also perform music that is one level lower than that of NV ensembles. If there is no availability to perform one level lower, as would be the case for MS Sub-NV, we would propose a further modification in the requirements to include an extra two minutes of instruction time above NV (from 8 minutes to 9 minutes.)

BAND DIVISION

ACTION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Texas Association of Jazz Educators, Alex Parker, President.

PROPOSAL: UIL create region and state jazz festivals similar to that of the UIL mariachi process, resulting in ratings at both levels, no rankings.

RATIONALE: Like mariachi music and education, jazz and jazz education has a long and strong tradition in Texas. There are many jazz programs that should be showcased and allowed the opportunity to hear bands from around the state, get feedback from experienced adjudicators, and to be able to use the festival as a motivating experience for their students. As an educator, I have seen so many students improve because of the opportunities that the UIL provides, and we believe that the UIL will do the same thing for our jazz students. I would be happy to make this proposal in person or online at any time as well.

ACTION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 28 Band Division.

PROPOSAL: At each Area Marching Contest we would like UIL to consider awarding trophies and medals to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd placed groups in finals competition.

RATIONALE: Currently, all Area groups receive a participant plaque and all finalist groups receive a finalist plaque. There is nothing to recognize the 1st place group as the Area champions or the 2nd and 3rd placed groups as runner-ups. The awarding of trophies and medals will help crown an Area champion in each classification annually and will help further recognize band students across the state. The awarding of trophies and medals will also mirror what is done at the State Marching Band Championships and will help further promote the activity and recognize the best groups in each Area.

DISCUSSION ITEM (for vote): Submitted by the Region 7 Band Division.

PROPOSAL: UIL create a “Festival” Concert Track in conjunction with the annual UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation to better serve the educational needs of increasingly diverse band programs across the state.

- PML performance requirements would not be utilized. Directors may choose pieces at their discretion to best showcase the ensemble.
- Instrument substitution/supplementation would be at director discretion. As such, C&CR regulations regarding instrument substitution/reinforcement would not apply.
- Concert component only, no sight-reading.
- Director may choose festival track or traditional track.

RATIONALE:

- Programs across the state have become increasingly diverse even when compared within a given classification. The current system employs a “one size” approach and places educators and students at an advantage/disadvantage based upon their location.
 - Staffing
 - Funding
 - Socioeconomic differences
- A number of programs are set up for failure simply due to classification performance requirements not aligning to their unique structural limitations (instrumentation, location, socioeconomic situation, access to instruction).
- The addition of a new “festival track” provides the opportunity for exploration, innovation, and program development with the support of the UIL.
- While rebuilding programs may currently enter as a non-varsity, they still may not be ready to progress to the full PML requirements for a given classification once they have received division one ratings at the non-varsity level.
- An evaluative process is important and paramount in a data-driven educational landscape. It is an expectation of most districts that programs attend a UIL Evaluation. Creating avenues for success promotes growth and development.
- Educator shortages and burnout continue to be a leading topic across the field of education. Potential educators are choosing to pursue other avenues due to time demands, stress, and compensation.
- As leaders, educators demonstrate and assign value through the promotion of a subject or devotion of time to a concept or cause. Our students learn through that process what is important to us.
- The goal of every music educator should be the creation of individuals who value, create, consume, and promote music as a meaningful human activity.

DISCUSSION ITEM (no vote): Submitted by the Region 21 Band Division.

PROPOSAL: Add flexible instrumentations to the sight-reading selections for middle school bands.

RATIONALE: Meet the instrumentation needs of a band that does not have a traditional instrumentation. Recently, several works have been added to the Prescribed Music List

that have flexible instrumentation and have been used for concert literature in order to deal with instrumentation issues. In order to provide consistency, sight reading music should reflect the instrumentation of the literature that is available for the concert portion of UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation. Band programs across the state are dealing with instrumentation issues due to:

1. Block scheduling (students may lose Fine Arts classes, especially in the 8th grade because of the requirement to take College and Career Readiness)
2. Required tutorial classes at low performing schools
3. Other scheduling issues.

DISCUSSION ITEM (no vote): Submitted by the Region 17 Band Division.

PROPOSAL: Non-varsity and sub non-varsity bands be allowed to perform flex band versions of pieces already on the PML.

RATIONALE: With the development of new rules that allow academically ineligible students to perform at UIL concert and sight-reading evaluation more schools are sending a higher number of ensembles from their schools. Oftentimes non-varsity and sub non-varsity bands have instrumentation issues due to various factors, including inconsistent feeder patterns from junior highs and attrition. Yet, they are required to play music off a list with strict instrumentations. This causes students to be alone on parts at times or cut off of parts to help balance. Yet, a great deal of the Grade 1-3 music on the list now has a flex band version available. Since this music already exists and since most of the music is on the list already, this would allow more students to see success at UIL and to experience a higher level of literature. A band with 3 trumpets and 10 clarinets could play a high-quality piece of literature and directors could allow more people to participate. Judges would still be able to evaluate if a director was staying true to the intent of the piece as they evaluate an ensemble.

DISCUSSION ITEM (no vote): Submitted by the Region 17 Band Division.

PROPOSAL: The 1st selection PML requirement for 5A and 6A sub non-varsity bands be lowered one grade.

Conference	1st Selection Source	2nd Selection Source	March
6A-SNV	Gr. II, III, IV, or V	Gr. II, III, IV, or V	Director's choice
5A-SNV	Gr. I, II, III, IV, or V	Gr. I, II, III, IV, or V	Director's choice

RATIONALE: Every student deserves to be evaluated at a corresponding level of ability relative to the other ensemble classifications. A sub non-varsity ensemble in name and in ability is not on the same level as a non-varsity ensemble and, therefore, should not be required to perform literature at the same level of difficulty.

DISCUSSION ITEM (no vote): Submitted by the Region 17 Band Division.

PROPOSAL: 5A and 6A sub non-varsity bands be assigned the same sight-reading level as the non-varsity requirement one conference lower. For example, a 6A sub non-varsity band will be assigned to sight-read Level III, equivalent to a 5A non-varsity band.

Level	Conference	Non-Varsity & Sub Non-Varsity
I	1C	All MS NV/Sub NV & 1A/2A/3A NV/Sub NV & 4A Sub NV
II	2C/1A/2A	4A NV/5A Sub NV
III	3C/3A	5A NV/6A Sub NV
IV	4A	6A NV
V	5A	
VI	6A	

RATIONALE: Every student deserves to be evaluated at a corresponding level of ability relative to the other ensemble classifications. A sub non-varsity ensemble in name and in ability is not on the same level as a non-varsity ensemble and, therefore, should not be required to sight-read at the same level of difficulty.

MARCHING BAND RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT: Marching band directors are encouraged to review the most current MB RAC information on the [UIL website](#) and share any input with the members of that committee.