



Alabama Vocal Association

All-State Choral Festival, a three-day event that culminates in a professionally recorded concert, is an opportunity for students with outstanding ability and initiative to receive public recognition, to sing under the direction of nationally recognized choral clinicians, and to perform choral literature of the highest quality.

Standing Rules for **All-State Choral Festival**

1 Eligibility and Choirs

1. All students who audition for All-State Choirs must be enrolled in a middle, junior, or high school choral program and the choral director must be a member of AVA/MENC. If a school is on the block system, students who are enrolled for one semester in that school year will be eligible for all AVA activities during that entire school year. Homeschool choirs must meet at least weekly in order for students in these choirs to be eligible.
2. Students may choose to audition for ONE of the following choirs:
 - **High School SATB Choir:** open to female and male students in grades 10-12
 - **High School SSA Choir:** open to female students in grades 9-12
 - **High School TTBB Choir:** open to male students in grades 9-12
 - **Middle School MIXED Choir:** open to male students in grades 7-8 and to female students in grade 8. Male students may audition for any voice part of Middle School MIXED Choir.
 - **Middle School TREBLE Choir:** open to female students in grades 7-8
3. Students who plan to audition/have auditioned for All-State Show Choir may also audition for All-State Choir and are strongly encouraged to do so.
4. Students who were selected for the previous year's All-State Choir Festival or All-State Show Choir Festival and did not attend, or who were dismissed from either festival, are not eligible to audition for All-State Choir.

2 Ordering Music and Preparing Students for the Audition

1. All-State music is chosen by the clinician of each choir and approved by the AVA Board at the Summer Board Meeting. As soon as the list is finalized it is posted on the website. It can be ordered through any music store. Each All-State Choir typically sings five or six pieces plus the state song, *Alabama*, and the national anthem.
2. Music should be ordered eight weeks before auditions so that students have ample time to prepare the music.
3. Each student must have an original copy of each piece of music for the choir for which they plan to audition. Photocopied music may not be used during auditions. Such use will disqualify a school from participating in All-State. If All-State music ordered is still on backorder from the publisher three weeks before auditions, the director should contact the District Chairman for copies of music. Photocopied music will be accepted at an All-State audition ONLY if the director offers proper proof, in the form of a written communication from the supplier that the music in question has been ordered eight weeks prior to the audition date.
4. Students are responsible for knowing their entire voice part in all of the selections for the choir for which they are auditioning. (See All-State Adjudication Form F2.3 for the voice part choices for each choir.) Each student will sing an excerpt from EVERY music selection by himself/herself. Excerpts will be announced in the audition. A student who doesn't know the music will not make All-State, regardless of vocal and musical ability.
5. Music does not have to be memorized; students will use their music in the audition.

6. Alabama All-State Practice CDs are available for students to learn their all-state music. They are optional, and are not officially endorsed by AVA, but can serve as a rehearsal aid to supplement the time the director spends teaching the music. Contact your District Chair for information about ordering CDs.
7. Directors should not teach all students the same voice part, for the sake of convenience, as this can create balance problems for the All-State Choirs.
8. Instructions for All-State selections with unusual voice part assignments will be sent to you by your District Chairman and posted on the website.
9. Students must be prepared to sing *a cappella* selections without accompaniment. The adjudicator may elect to have other parts OR accompaniment interludes played when those parts are crucial to hearing entrances.

3 Audition Application and Fees

1. Directors may choose any of the available audition sites (although each student may audition only once each year). Sites and dates are listed on the *alavocal.org* calendar page.
2. **A complete audition application includes:**
 - All-State Audition Application Form F2.1
 - All-State Applicant List(s) Form F2.2; fill out a separate form for EACH CHOIR
 - a copy of your MENC card
 - school check made out to *Alabama Vocal Association* or signed school Purchase Order for Audition Fees, which include:
 - \$40.00 school fee
 - \$5.00 fee for each student auditioning for All-State
 - (\$50.00 late fee if registering after the deadline)
3. Mail your complete application by the deadline on the *alavocal.org* calendar page to:

Pat Blackwell
AVA Executive Secretary
1703 Emily Circle
Huntsville, AL 35802
4. No applications will be accepted later than one week prior to the date of the first All-State audition (see the website for this deadline).
5. Directors must have current MENC membership in order for their students to audition. If your membership is not current when you submit the application, be prepared to present proof of membership (MENC card or cancelled check to MENC) when you register at the All-State audition desk.

4 The Audition

1. Directors will receive notification of the audition time(s) after the complete audition application has been received and the District auditions have been scheduled.
2. If a student is unable to attend a scheduled All-State audition because of extreme illness, a death in the family, or other emergency, the director must contact the Executive Secretary to be assigned an alternate site and date.
3. Directors must accompany students to the audition, and should bring to auditions only the students who have learned their music.
4. **Each student must bring the following to auditions:**
 - All-State Audition Adjudication Form F2.3, signed by PARENT and STUDENT, after reading *Parent Information for All-State*.
 - complete set of music for the choir for which they are auditioning, including *Alabama* (NO PHOTOCOPIES)
5. **The procedure for auditions is as follows:**

All-State Audition Procedure:

Approximately 10 students will be scheduled for the same audition time and will be escorted into the audition room with their completed F2.3 forms and music. For **each** of the six pieces plus *Alabama* the adjudicator will tell students the page and measure of the audition excerpt (approximately eight to twelve measures for each piece). **One at a time, each student will sing each excerpt** with the CD accompaniment (or *a cappella* for unaccompanied pieces).

5 Registration (for students selected from the auditions for All-State)

1. All-State results will be mailed to directors within two weeks of the date students auditioned. If you do not receive these results by the date listed on the *alavocal.org* calendar page, contact Pat Blackwell.
2. Mail All-State Festival Registration to Pat Blackwell (address is on the form) by the deadline on the *alavocal.org* calendar page. **A complete registration includes:**
 - All-State Registration Form F2.4
 - **a photocopy of the All-State Notification Letter**, with changes and corrections marked in red ink
 - school check made out to *Alabama Vocal Association* or signed school Purchase Order for Total Fees, which include:
 - \$40.00 school fee
 - \$25.00 fee for each student
 - (\$50.00 late fee if registering after the deadline)

6 All-State Festival

1. Directors must accompany students to All-State, and must be on the premises while students are in rehearsal.
2. Each student **MUST BRING A COMPLETE ORIGINAL SET OF MUSIC AND A PENCIL TO EACH REHEARSAL**. Photocopied music in rehearsals is not allowed.
3. Students must wear name tags to each rehearsal. Replacement nametags cost \$5.00 and can be obtained at the registration desk.
4. Directors will be given rehearsal assignments to take roll and to monitor behavior.
5. Roll is taken at each rehearsal and names of students who are absent are reported to the AVA Board. If a student is late for two rehearsals he/she will be removed from the choir. Absence from a rehearsal or performance or removal due to disciplinary actions will result in disqualification from this and the following year's All-State festivals.
6. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is strictly prohibited during All-State rehearsals and concerts. A student who uses a cell phone for any reason, including receiving a text or checking the time, during a rehearsal or the concert, risks disqualification from All-State.
7. Students are required to participate in the All-State festival and concert in its entirety. Students should wear their school choral uniform (formal attire or choir robe) for the All-State Concert. If the school choral uniform is not formal, students must dress in formal concert attire that meets the minimum dress code (tea length or floor length dress for girls with appropriate dress shoes, and a shirt, tie and dress slacks with dress shoes for boys). Show choir uniforms or prom-style dresses (sequins, spaghetti straps, etc.) are not acceptable. Any revealing attire is inappropriate for this occasion.
8. Students must bring a black folder for the All-State Concert.