



Alabama Vocal Association

State Choral Performance Assessment is offered each year in the spring for choirs that have 17 or more members. All choirs perform from memory two repertoire selections in a public performance for three judges and sight-read for one judge in a closed setting. Directors may choose any of the State Choral Performance Assessment sites, and may register for more than one site if they wish.

Standing Rules for **State Choral Performance Assessment**

1 Eligibility

1. State Choral Performance Assessment is designed for choirs that have seventeen or more singers. (Choirs with less than 17 singers are eligible for State Ensemble Performance Assessment.)
2. The choral director must be a member of AVA/MENC (menc.org).
3. 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.
4. AVA recognizes and includes homeschool choirs with the following stipulation: homeschool choirs must meet at least weekly for students to be eligible to participate in AVA adjudicated assessments.
5. Students must be in good standing with their choral department and their school to participate in any AVA event.

2 Music

1. Each choir will perform from memory two selections.
2. Although there is no required music list, directors should choose music that is age-appropriate and of good quality. Adjudicators may lower ratings based on choice of music. Pop, show music, vocal jazz and Broadway selections are unsuitable for adjudication at Performance Assessments.
3. Choirs or ensembles may not perform for assessment any music from the CURRENT year's All-State list unless it is a different voicing or arrangement of that title.
4. Choirs and ensembles with like voicing from the same school are not permitted to perform the same literature at State Choral Performance Assessment and/or State Solo & Ensemble Performance Assessment.
5. Photocopied music is illegal and not allowed, unless written proof is provided from the supplier indicating that the music in question was ordered at least eight weeks prior to the Performance Assessment date.
6. Directors may not edit music for Performance Assessments. If either selection is marked *a cappella*, it must be performed *a cappella*.
7. It is preferable that music be performed in the original language for which it was written; however, the director may choose a text translation if one or more translations appear in the music.
8. Middle School directors may make slight changes to accommodate the changing male voice.
9. Music must be performed from memory. Only the director and accompanist(s) may use music.
10. Recorded accompaniment is not permitted at Performance Assessments.
11. The director may not sing with his/her choirs.

3 Registration and Fees

1. A complete audition application includes:
 - o **State Choral Performance Assessment Registration Form F5.1**
 - o **school check** made out to *Alabama Vocal Association* or signed school Purchase Order for Total Fees, which include:
 - \$40.00 school fee
 - \$1.50 fee for each student (each time a student performs with a choir)
 - (\$50.00 late fee if registering after the deadline)
 - o a copy of your **MENC card** if you joined or updated after September 1
2. Mail your complete application by the deadline to the District Chairman sponsoring the Assessment you choose to attend. (Send a separate application for each State Choral Performance Assessment you plan to attend.)
3. No applications will be accepted later than one week prior to State Choral Performance Assessment.
4. Directors must have current MENC membership in order for their students to perform. If your membership is not current when you submit the registration, be prepared to present proof of membership (MENC card or cancelled check to MENC) when you register at the SCPA registration desk.

4 The Assessment

1. Directors will receive notification of the performance assessment times after the complete registration application has been received and the Assessment times have been scheduled.
2. Directors should arrive at the SCPA site for registration at least one hour prior to the first scheduled warm-up time.
3. Directors should bring to the registration desk:
 - a. Three copies of **State Choral Performance Assessment Adjudication Form F5.2**, with information complete FOR EACH CHOIR,
 - b. One copy of the **State Choral Performance Assessment Sight-Reading Adjudication Form F5.3**, with information complete and
 - c. **Three clean, original copies of each music selection**, with MEASURES NUMBERED, for the adjudicators (NO PHOTOCOPIES).
4. Each choir will be scheduled for the three events of the assessment cycle: Warm-Up, Performance, and Sight-Reading. Performance is open to the public; Warm-Up and Sight-Reading are closed.
5. Discipline requirements:
 - a. Students must arrive at the assessment site dressed to perform, and may not change clothes at the assessment site.
 - b. Students are not allowed in the registration area.
 - c. Students from a school who are not in the assessment cycle must be chaperoned.
 - d. Inappropriate student behavior can disqualify a school from State Choral Performance Assessment.
 - e. Students may not have electronic devices at State Choral Performance Assessment.
 - f. NO ONE may enter or leave the performance hall while a choir is on the risers.

5 Sight-Reading

1. The sight-reading selection for each choir is based upon the voicing of its performance literature and the age range of the group, shown in the chart below:

Grade Level of Students	Voicing of Performance Literature	Level and Voicing of Sight-Reading Selection
6th grade	Unison	6th Grade Unison
6th grade	2-part (SA)	MS Unison or 2-part (SA)
Middle School/Jr. High	Unison	MS Unison
Middle School/Jr. High	SA	MS SA
Middle School/Jr. High	SSA	MS SA or SSA
Middle School/Jr. High	TB	MS TB
Middle School/Jr. High	TTB	MS TB or TTB
Middle School/Jr. High	3-part Mixed	MS 3-part Mixed
Middle School/Jr. High	SATB	MS SATB
High School	SA	HS SA
High School	SSA	HS SSA
High School	TB	HS TB
High School	TBB	HS TBB
High School	TTBB	HS TBB or HS TTBB
High School	SAB	HS SAB
High School	SATB	HS SATB

2. As shown in the chart above, the director of a 6th Grade 2-part choir, MS SSA choir, MS TTB choir, or HS TTBB choir may choose to sight-read a selection with one less voice split.
3. High school groups must always read the high school sight-reading selection for which they qualify. However, the director of a middle school or junior high group may choose to sight-read the high school-level sight-reading selection of the voicing for which they qualify.
4. Directors with students in more than one group of the same voicing will read an alternate sight-reading example with the second group.
5. The Sight-Reading procedure is detailed below:

Sight-Reading Procedure

1. Choirs will be met at the door of the sight-reading room.
2. Students will file in and be seated, and music will be distributed face-down.
3. Directors may peruse the music as it is being distributed to the students.
4. When distribution of music is completed the judge will begin timing the five-minute study period, and students turn the music face-up.
5. During the five-minute study period:
 - The director may indicate any changes in key or time signatures.
 - The director may point out certain difficult passages and talk about them.
 - The director may speak words in rhythm with the choir, but may not demonstrate rhythms for the choir.
 - The director may not sing any part of the audition number or have it played on the piano.
 - No singing by director or choir members may occur during the five-minute study period.
 - No pitch may be given on the piano during this period.
 - Directors are not allowed to perform with their students.
 - Directors may elect to have their choirs sing on a neutral syllable, solfege, numbers, or words.
6. When the five-minute study period is over, each section may be allowed to sing its starting tone, and the adjudication will begin.
7. During the performance the director may tap, snap, or clap a steady pulse, but may NOT sing with, speak to, tap, snap, or clap exact rhythms for the choir. Any violation of the above conditions will result in a lowered rating.
8. Choirs are allowed to sing the sight-reading example a second time. Directors may point out problem areas and re-establish pitch prior to the second reading.
9. At the conclusion of the adjudication, the choir will remain seated until all music has been collected.

6 Ratings

1. Each choir will receive a rating of I (highest) to IV from each of three judges who hear the performance and a rating of I to IV from the sight-reading judge. The sum of these four ratings determines a choir's Overall Rating:

I	Superior	The sum of the four adjudicators' scores equals 4-6, except with a III in Sight-Reading (see point 2. below)
II	Excellent	The sum of the four adjudicators' scores equals 7-10
III	Good	The sum of the four adjudicators' scores equals 11-13
IV	Fair	The sum of the four adjudicators' scores equals 14-16

2. Any choir rating a III in sight-reading will not receive an overall I (superior) rating. A choir that is rated I-I-I in performance and gets a III in sight-reading (sum of 6) will receive an Overall II rating.
3. Ratings will automatically be lowered one level by performance judges when a director chooses to begin a piece again.
4. Directors may choose to bring choirs **for comments only** but must complete the entire assessment cycle (Warm-up, Performance, Sight-reading).