

District/State Performance Assessment Proposal

The Problem: Pro-ration has affected every public school teacher in our state, and may go much further than just freezing spending and taking away teacher supply money. The current economic situation is altering how programs are funded, for public and private schools alike. Many schools are cutting back on the number of allowed field trips. Even programs lucky enough to have board funding have experienced some deep cutbacks.

In an effort to be pro-active in helping you to conserve the funds that you do have the Governing Board of the Alabama Vocal Association makes the following proposal:

The Proposal: We present to the membership the proposal to move away from the District/State Performance Assessment to a once yearly performance assessment to become effective for the school year 2010-2011.

Discussion and Parameters:

1. **Name:** The committee has suggested the name *Choral Music Performance Assessment*. An alternative name, *State Performance Assessment*, has been suggested by some members, who feel that their principals would be more likely to approve a field trip with the name "State" in it.
2. **Location:** The committee suggests that the assessment take place within each district. This would eliminate the need for excessive travel. We also leave open the possibility for two districts to combine to have a larger festival and share expenses if they choose.
3. **Adjudicators:** The committee proposes that the AVA board develop an approved list of adjudicators. Adjudicators for each District would primarily be out-of-state, but that doesn't preclude the use of an in-state judge as well. When we say "out of state" we are suggesting the states that border us, to avoid paying expensive airline costs.
4. **Judging Standards:** It is our desire to encourage, not discourage participation. It is also our desire to have a more equitable judging process and that the adjudication be at a higher standard than our current District Performance Assessment. The committee suggests that that we rework the auxiliary sheet and encourage the membership to use it to give adjudicators an accurate picture of the choral program being adjudicated.
5. **Trial Period:** Finally, it is felt that at this time that we should offer to the membership this assessment option for a two-year trial. At the conclusion of this two-year trial period the membership would then evaluate and determine whether to adopt it permanently or go back to the District/State Assessment.

What You Need To Do: Let your District Chair or committee members know how you feel about any of the discussion points above, so that they can represent your opinion to the Board.

The Vote: It takes two general meetings to change the by-laws; the vote to adopt or reject this proposal will be taken at the AVA general meeting at AMEA in January 2010.

This proposal has been developed by a committee appointed by President Damion Womack. Committee members are:

Jane Powell
Kathy Hughes
Jerry Cunningham