

EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THE STATE MUSIC REPORT

Music Performance Assessment

An MPA is a major assessment event for secondary music programs in which a musical performance is evaluated on specified criteria. The assessments are held annually for marching bands, concert large ensembles (band, chorus, orchestra), and solos-ensembles. Together with other criteria the music performance assessments may give a significant measure of the success of a music program on a campus.

Such assessments are held on a district (local area) and state levels for high school performing groups. There is no state level assessment for middle or junior high.

Statistics presented

The numbers associated with each event represent the number of student participants reported to FSMA by component association district chairpersons. While the number is not indicative of program enrollment, it does show the level of activity within a program.

Adjudication

With minor exceptions, each large ensemble MPA event has four adjudicators (judges). Adjudicators are master music teachers selected on the basis of experience and successful teaching. At least one adjudicator in each MPA event must be certified according to FSMA rules, in addition to meeting the requirements defined by the component music associations.

For large ensemble events, three adjudicators are used to evaluate concert events, and one adjudicator is dedicated to evaluating sight-reading, which is conducted separately from the concert evaluation.

For Solo-Ensemble MPA events, a single adjudicator evaluates individual students and small ensembles.

Date

Date on which the school performed in the MPA.

Ratings

Possible ratings are: Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor.

Disqualified (DQ): The performing organization did not follow the rules established for the assessment event in some respect.

Comments Only (CO): New directors or new performing organizations sometimes choose to receive comments only to assist their students in improving their skills. Each component music association (FBA, FOA, FVA) has rules regarding how

often and under what conditions a performing organization may request a performance for "comments only."

Following are the descriptors for the ratings used by adjudicators to assess the performances, which are compiled to form the "Final Score". More complete information about the performance may be gained by reviewing the adjudicators' taped commentary and/or the written comment sheets.

SUPERIOR – The rating is comparable to the grade of "A". This rating reflects the finest conceivable performance for the event and class of participants being evaluated – worthy of the distinction of being recognized as among the very best.

EXCELLENT – The rating is comparable to a grade of "B". This rating reflects an unusually high level of performance in many respects, but one not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects. Yet it is a performance of distinctive quality. The ensemble receiving this rating usually shows the results of sound fundamental training, but the performance lacks the polish and finesse to qualify for a Superior rating.

GOOD – The rating would be comparable to a grade of "C". This rating is awarded for a good performance, but one that is not outstanding. It shows accomplishment and marked promise and potential, but is lacking in one or more essential qualities.

FAIR – This rating is comparable to a grade of "D", and describes a performance that shows obvious weaknesses. These MAY reflect instrumentation problems or lack of rehearsal time, but generally represents a performance that is weak or uncertain – containing numerous errors, and revealing basic flaws in most of the fundamental factors.

POOR – This rating indicates a performance that reveals much room for improvement. The director of such a group should evaluate his/her methods of teaching and compare them to those of directors who achieve higher ratings with their bands.

School ID

A combination of the DOE School District number and the individual school's account number. In some cases, this number has been modified to meet FSMA database requirements.

Solo & Ensemble

An assessment for individual students and/or small groups. Adjudicator ratings for individual students or ensembles may be obtained from the school music director or from the state office of the music component sponsoring the event.

Concert

An assessment for a large group of students performing in a formal concert setting.