

Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association

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The following accommodations will be made at the request of the director of a blind student desiring to participate in ASBOA interscholastic events.

All-Region and All-State Auditions

- 1. For All-Region and All-State auditions, the sight-reading music will be transcribed into braille. No audio or live performance of the sight-reading music will be played for the student.**
Playing the required sight-reading music for the students would fundamentally alter the nature of the audition by changing the competency being tested. Sight-Reading is an essential aspect of the audition.
- 2. The blind student should meet the ASBOA Region Chair at the designated tryout room two students prior to the blind student's audition slot. The ASBOA Region Chair will escort the blind student into a private room where they will be given one minute to study/memorize the braille sight-reading music, monitored by the Region Chair. During the allotted study period, as with all auditioning students, playing the music on his/her instrument is not allowed. The Region Chair will escort the student back to the audition room and ensure that he/she is the next player to audition, even if the room is ahead of or behind schedule. If the blind student's scheduled audition slot has been passed, no late penalty will be assessed.**

The blind student will then audition following the guidelines for all students. During the allotted 20 second study period, he/she will be able to review the braille music before being asked to play the sight-reading.

For the audition to be equally objective for each student, great care is taken to insure anonymity to the panel of adjudicators. The time to study the braille music is extended 300% prior to the student entering the audition room. Including the 20 seconds to review the sight-reading music, the student will receive a total of 80 seconds – 400% of the standard time.

- 3. The student's school will be responsible for providing a qualified individual to assist the student navigating the unfamiliar audition site, including but not limited to, the warm-up areas and audition rooms. Someone familiar with the student and their needs will best be able to assist them through the process. The assistant must remain outside of the room while the student is auditioning.**

All-Region and All-State Clinics

- 1. Music for All-Region and All-State Clinics will be transcribed into braille for the student.**
An official of ASBOA will secure the music from the clinician for the honor group to be transcribed to braille. Every effort will be made to send the music to the student in a timely manner.
- 2. Allow the student's teacher to work with the student to learn the music, as necessary.**
Obviously the student will need to spend maximum time in the group rehearsals, however, the student's director may pull the student from the rehearsal setting to assist with the clinic music. Since the director may be in other rehearsal spaces, the student may communicate with the rehearsal monitor their need for their teacher for clarification or help with the music. The rehearsal monitor, not the student, will contact their teacher. This will eliminate the need for an exception to the "no cell phones for students during rehearsals" policy.

Concert Assessment

- Music for Sight-Reading Portion of Concert Assessment will be transcribed into braille for the student.**
An official of ASBOA will secure the music from the ASBOA office to be transcribed to braille. The student will receive the music at the same time it is given to their entire group.

If you have questions regarding these guidelines, please contact the ASBOA Office.