



## FAQs about the High School TMEA Region Band/All-State Process

### What is the importance of the TMEA Region Process within the VHS Band?

One of the single most important processes towards developing individual musicianship skills is the preparation and auditions for the TMEA Region Band. While preparing, VHS Band Students gain skill sets that grow our concert band in the spring. As we transition back into the marching season, those foundations and skill sets developed during the region process will dictate the musical maturity of the marching band. Understand that it takes skill, not talent, to be successful in these auditions. Skills are things that have to constantly be maintained and developed through consistent practice and preparation.

### What is different about the Region Band Audition in High School as compared to Middle School?

The audition itself is run in the same fashion. It is a blind audition which means that students are assigned letters and their names remain anonymous until results are posted. Contestants are judged by a panel of five judges sitting behind a curtain.

Students will still receive the opportunity for district recognition and a performance position in the High School Region Band. The biggest difference in high school is that students are eligible to compete at the Area and State level.

### What is the "District Band?"

"District" is the first level of recognition in the TMEA All-State Process. District Band members are recognized at the Region auditions. Students will receive a letter jacket patch for qualifying as a "District Band" member.

### What is the "Region Band?"

"Region" is the second level of recognition in the TMEA All-State Process. Region Band members will earn the opportunity to rehearse and perform as a member of the TMEA Region 26, All-Region Band. Students will receive a "District Band" and "Region Band" letter jacket patch for qualifying and performing with the All-Region Band.

### What is "Area?"

"Area" is the third level of recognition in the TMEA All-State Process. At Region Auditions, a small percentage of students will qualify for the TMEA Area Contest which is held separately in January. At Area, VHS students will compete with students from the Austin, San Antonio, Llano, and Kerrville Area. Students qualifying for area will receive letter jacket patches for "District," "Region" and "Area." At the Area audition, students will receive the opportunity to audition for the TMEA All-State Band.

### What is the "All-State Band?"

Because of the level of musicianship in the State of Texas, the TMEA All-State Band is regarded as the most accomplished group of High School Musicians in the United States. A small number of students advance from the Area Audition into the All-State Band. Students who qualify for All-State travel to San Antonio in February where they participate and perform at the TMEA State Convention. TMEA All-State Band Members are highly recruited and sought after by college and university band programs all over the country.

### What is "Region Orchestra?"

Region orchestra is an audition that takes place approximately one month before region band. This audition is typically comprised of the top players from each high school within TMEA Region 26. At Region Orchestra, students can qualify for participation in Region Orchestra Clinic and Concert. A very small percentage of students will also qualify for the TMEA Area Band Audition. This is the same audition band students for work to qualify for at Region Band Auditions.

### How are auditions scored?

TMEA Region, Area and All-State auditions are all scored by a panel of five judges. Each judge will rank all of the contestants and ranks will be compiled onto one form. At that time, for each student, the highest and lowest ranks will be dropped. The middle three ranks will be added to determine the students overall number. The lowest number wins.

### What is a phased region audition?

Instrument groups with a very large number of contestants (i.e. flute, clarinet, percussion, etc.) participate in a "phased" audition. In Phase 1, all students will be randomly distributed into 2 equal sized rooms. Students are chosen from the Phase 1 audition to participate in the Phase 2 audition which will happen the next day. At Phase 2, students from both auditions are combined and Region Chairs and Area Qualifiers are determined.

### Do TMEA Region Auditions determine chair and band placement for the Spring Semester in the VHS Band?

Any movement up or down from a students' respective band class is determined by the entire Hearing Time/Region Sectional process (which begins in August and culminates with the audition in December) as well as class participation and rehearsal quality. We will not make changes solely based on a panel of judges at one audition.

