

## **Terms of an Individual Student's Eligibility to Participate**

All Districts must include the following statement in its application materials:

“Students should not apply to participate in festivals if, for any reason (including religious activities), they plan to miss part of the affair. A student must participate in the complete festival program commencing with registration and concluding with the final concert, except in case of illness **that must be verified in writing by a physician within 5 days of the festival**. Students must rehearse and perform all musical compositions selected for the concert. (Amended, April 14, 1999)

Once selected, if the student cannot participate in the festival, it is the responsibility of the student's director to contact the host before the registration deadline of the event in order that an alternate may be selected.

A student sent home for disciplinary action will not participate in any subsequent PMEA festival for the remainder of the current school term but may be eligible to participate in the following year.

Students must participate in their own school organization in order to be eligible to participate in any PMEA or NAFME festival (band for band, orchestra for orchestra, and chorus for chorus). The only exception to this rule may come if the high school lacks said organization. (The original intent of this provision was to disqualify a winds or percussion student from participating in an orchestra festival, when, although continuing membership in the school band, the choice is made not to participate in an active orchestra in the home school.) PMEA feels that to do otherwise would tend to undercut the efforts of the director/member in the home school program. If there is an orchestra in the school, the orchestra director must be the sponsoring director-member; if there is no orchestra, the director of the band may sponsor students for an orchestra festival, subject to the rules of the individual district.

### **Participation by Home Schooled & Full-time Vocational-Technical School Students (Updated 2023)**

Home schooled and Full-time Vocational-Technical School students will be eligible to participate in PMEA festivals if they are sponsored by their local school district of residence and the appropriate member-director and if they are members of the local school district's ensembles or community-based equivalent (band for band, orchestra for orchestra and chorus for chorus)

..April 1995, January 2011,  
July 2020 & July 2023

### **Participation by Private, Parochial, Charter, Cyber and Cyber-Charter School Students (Updated 2023)**

Private, Parochial, Charter, Cyber and Cyber-Charter School students must participate in their own school musical ensembles, or community-based equivalent, in order to be eligible to participate in any PMEA or NAFME festival (band for band, orchestra for orchestra, and chorus for chorus) and must be sponsored by the appropriate PMEA member-director in their school. The private, parochial, charter, cyber or cyber-charter school of attendance must be recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as an official school entity. Cyber and Cyber-Charter students would participate in PMEA events within the PMEA district where they live.

A sponsoring PMEA member-director must be musically qualified and must serve in an audition capacity as assigned. A public school may not sponsor a private or charter school student under any circumstances.

..January 2011, updated July 2020