

News from the Assessment and Audition Committee

The Assessment and Auditions Committee has determined four updates for the 2026 Student Achievement Test.

1. For levels 1-12 of the technique test: the removal of all required articulations, dynamics and two note slurs (when applicable). All other bullet points will remain for easier administration of the test. Abbreviations HS/HT, BR/BL will be typed out as Hands Separately, Hands Together, Broken and Blocked.
2. For levels 1-12 of the Aural Awareness test: the test will no longer include a melody playback. The rest of the Aural Awareness Test will be in the same format with a different distribution of the current 10 points.
3. For levels 6-12 of the Performance requirements: the Impressionistic period can be combined with the Romantic Period or the 20th/21st century period. The handbook currently has the Impressionistic period combined with the Twentieth and Twenty-First Century. Students at level 11 are required to play a piece from the Romantic or Impressionistic Period. Students at level 12 are required to play a piece from the Impressionistic Period or Twentieth/Twenty-First Century.
4. For levels 1A, 1B and 2: the theory test will include larger staves for easier writing. This may increase pages and printing but it will not affect the length of the test.

In addition, for the 2026 year, the committee made a recommendation that the MTA State Competition (semifinals and finals) be separated from the Student Achievement Testing qualification process. The membership voted in favor of this change at the general membership meeting, October 11th 2025 during the MMTA Conference at Saginaw Valley State University.

Our auditions will no longer be under the auspices of the MMTA Assessment Committee, instead the new title will be MMTA State Competition Chair. Any questions about the state competitions can be directed to Tristan McKay.

Any questions or comments about the changes in the SAT test can be directed to Michelle Mitchum. MichelleRmitchum@gmail.com and/or 231-330-0410.