

Region Rules – ATSSB Region 15/28

Approved: May 10, 2025

Established in 1991, The Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB) promotes the interests of students, directors, parents and administrators of Class 1A-4A band programs. ATSSB meets twice a year at the state level: once in February (during TMEA), and once in July (during TBA). At the Region level, we also meet twice a year in conjunction with the TMEA Region meeting: once in May and once in August.

ATSSB provides an avenue for our 1A-4A students to audition and advance in the Region, Area and All-State process. *As of 2025, students from our region have been named to the ATSSB All-State Band 494 times!* The Outstanding Performance Series (OPS) was also created to recognize and promote the outstanding work of 1A-4A concert bands and their middle school feeders and *bands from our region have earned the title of champion or runner-up 41 times.* Since the inception of ATSSB, Region 15/28 has always performed at a high level and has a proud history of success at the State Level. It is important to stay updated with all information that comes down from the state officers, so it is recommended that all directors be familiar with the state website: <http://www.atssb.org/> and the region website: www.atssb.org/region-15/

Region Officers serve for two-year terms and are available to help in any way possible.

Region Coordinator: Benjamin J. Keltner (2025-27)

Secretary: Roberto Diaz (2024-26)

Treasurer: Trey Barrera (2025-27)

MS Coordinator: Max Gutierrez (2024-26)

Jazz Coordinator: James Keltner (2024-26)

Webmaster: Victoria Vasquez

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of this page as it pertains to: JH and HS All-Region Band, Director Responsibilities, Organizational Responsibilities and OPS Guidelines.

Region Band Procedures

1. ATSSB HS (and Jazz) audition music is on a five-year rotation as selected by the state board.
2. The **Official Source** of Audition music and procedures are listed on www.atssb.org

3. The current rotation of HS music is as follows (this list is unofficial):

2025-26: Year E

2026-27: Year A

2027-28: Year B

2028-29: Year C

2029-30: Year D

4. Junior High/Middle School music is on a two-year rotation and will come from the list posted on www.atssb.org Region 15/28 under the All-Region Information tab.
5. The current rotation for JH/MS audition music is:

2025-2026 – Year A

2026-2027 – Year B

2027-2028 – Year A

2028-2029 – Year B

6. Fees for All Region HS and JH/MS tryouts are set at \$15.00 per student plus a campus fee of \$50.00. Jazz tryout fees are \$20.00 per student plus a campus fee of \$50.00. Area fees are set by the state board and should be paid to the Region 15/28 Treasurer.
7. All entries must be submitted online through the TMEA website. Entry deadlines are 14 days prior to the tryout as set by TMEA. Late entry deadline is 7 days prior to the tryout, with a 200% late entry fee (\$30 for HS and MS, \$40 for Jazz). There will be an additional \$50 fee for late entries and incorrect entries the day of the audition.
8. Entry Fees should be mailed to:
Region 15/28 Band, c/o Trey Barrera, 2816 N. 28th Str., McAllen, TX. 78501
9. Check the Region calendar on the website for contest dates and deadlines.
10. Head directors must be members of TMEA and ATSSB before entering students for ATSSB Auditions and are required to abide by all TMEA and ATSSB audition rules and procedures.
11. A copy of the director's TMEA/ATSSB cards, a student entry list, and a check must be mailed (postmarked) by the entry deadline.
12. Head Junior High directors must be TMEA and ATSSB members to enter students in the ATSSB audition process. The high school head director's membership cards cannot be used for junior high entries. (exception, 1 director schools)
13. The director is responsible for enforcing eligibility rules on the day of the auditions. Student eligibility rules will be based on current UIL Eligibility Rules.

14. Directors and students are responsible for checking the list of audition music and errata.
15. 6th Grade students may not audition unless they are second year band students. Junior High Students may not audition at the high school tryouts.
16. All directors from schools that enter students in the audition process can expect to serve as judges for the all region and junior high all region band tryouts.
17. It is each school's Head Director Responsibility to understand and adhere to all ATSSB and TMEA Rules. Website: www.atssb.org email: atssb@att.net

Director/Judge Responsibilities – Auditions

1. A judge/monitor meeting will be held the day of the audition in order to review the audition rules and procedures.
2. Five judges must be used in each audition room for all auditions. The Region Coordinator will select a chairperson for each panel. An appropriate honorarium, as determined by the Region Coordinator will be paid to non-members of ATSSB Region 15.
3. Prior to beginning the auditions, each judging panel shall select two scales, the chromatic scale, and an excerpt of at least 50% for each of the tryout etudes. The panel chairperson will then inform the monitor to relay the information to the students and place the audition instruction sheet on the performance music stand inside the audition room.
4. All judges are required to use a calculator to double-check his/her scores. All scores will be entered and verified online. Mistakes on the score sheets will slow down the posting of results immensely.
5. Auditioning students will have no vocal contact with the judges and should be out of view of the judges at all times in the tryout room.
6. Middle School Only – If the student leaves out part of the audition material, the panel chairperson will remind the student of the omitted section as soon as the panel is aware of it. This must be done before the student leaves the room.
7. Head Directors and the staffs of participating schools must be present to judge tryouts. If a director cannot be present, he/she must inform the Region Coordinator before the audition and must provide a proxy for the tryout.
8. It is suggested that each school bring at least one chaperone to the middle school and high school region auditions.
9. If a director is not present for a vote, a proxy may vote in his/her stead.

Monitor Instructions

1. Pass out packets: sign in sheets and call sheets (explain difference)
2. Meet with students: have them sign in and memorize their audition number
3. Make sure that the students are NOT lined up in audition order for the judges to see as they report to audition room.
4. Report DNA's to the Region Coordinator ASAP, then report to the panel and get information about scale choices and music cuts. Mark them clearly on the music provided.
5. Explain to the students what scales have been selected, the cuts of the music and the order in which they will be played.
6. Place music on stand along-side audition instruction sheet provided in the audition room.
7. No electronic communication devices are allowed in the audition room. Only inaudible metronomes may be used to set tempos prior to performance, but must be turned off prior to performance.
8. Explain to the students that they may not speak in the audition room. If a question or instrument malfunction occurs, they are to raise their hand and ask the monitor in the hallway.
9. If a malfunction occurs during the warm-up or scales, they may raise their hand and ask the monitor to try to find a director who may repair the issue. If the malfunction occurs after they have sounded the first note of the etude they must continue to attempt to finish the etude.
10. After the judges are in the room you may line up the students in audition order. Make sure that the next student to audition is waiting next to the door, "On deck."
11. When a student enters the room announce their assigned number: "This is number 001"
12. Students are allowed a one-breath warm-up or 5 second roll for percussion before each round.
13. JH/MS Auditions will happen in one round: 1st Selected Scales, 2nd slow etude, 3rd fast etude (JH/MS Percussion 3 Rounds.)
14. If a JH/MS student forgets part of the audition, the monitor WILL remind the student.
15. HS Auditions will happen in two rounds (HS percussion 3 Rounds). Round 1: selected scales and slow etude. If part of the audition is forgotten, the monitor is NOT to remind the student (HS audition)
16. HS Students will then exit the room and return starting halfway down the list (1/3 and 2/3 for percussion) to complete Round 2: fast etude (HS only)
17. When all students have finished, Please collect the next instrument scheduled to audition for the judges panel.
18. If any questions arise that cannot be resolved by the judges chair, please address them to the contest office immediately.
19. Thank you for your service, this audition would not be possible without you!

Audition Procedures

Only one student will enter the audition room at a time to perform. All other contestants will wait quietly outside in the hallway. Non-Contestants will not be allowed in the tryout room or hallway.

1. All wind players will follow the one breath warm up rule. Percussionists will follow the procedure outlined in the ATSSB Percussion Audition Guidelines found online.
2. Students may use their own copies of audition music. Original music will be provided in each audition room.
3. High School wind auditions will happen in two rounds (Percussion three rounds). Junior High wind auditions will be done in one round (Percussion three rounds).
4. High School Percussion students will have the option of choosing their performance ensemble (Concert Band or Percussion Quintet) starting with the first chair student and continuing until the Band or quintet is full. Then chairs will be filled according to the audition results.
5. Students may audition on as many different instruments as they wish, provided an audition fee is paid for each instrument. In the event the student makes the All Region Band on more than one instrument, he/she must choose which instrument he/she will perform at the Region Clinic/Concert.
6. If a student qualifies for Area on more than one instrument, he/she must decide on which instrument he/she will audition on at the Area Tryouts before Region results are final. The student will also perform on the same instrument for the Clinic/Concert.
7. A student may not qualify for Area on more than one path to All-State. Directors and students must declare the specific audition path to All-State (TMEA or ATSSB).
8. Auditioning students must perform the two scales, the chromatic scale, and at least 50% of each of the two etudes for the current year. (All directors should check the website for the correct tryout music. Junior high tryout music list is on www.atssb.org/region-15/)
9. There is no memory requirement for any ATSSB tryout.
10. The monitor must stand away and out of sight of the auditioning student while the student is performing.

Administrative Issues

1. All results will not be considered official until ALL auditions are finished and all tabulations have been completed.
2. The Region Coordinator will post results of the tryouts for all directors to view on the TMEA Director Login. As per TMEA: Results cannot be removed or photographed.

3. All schools with students advancing to Area will make Area Fee Checks Payable to: ATSSB Region 15/28. This check should be hand delivered to the region coordinator the morning of Area auditions at Calallen HS. The region treasurer will then turn in one Area check for all entries.

Region Clinic/Concert

1. If a director has knowledge that one of his/her students will not be able to participate in the All Region Clinic/Concert or the Area Tryouts, he/she must inform the Region Coordinator as soon as possible so a replacement can be called for that student.
2. Each student's director (or qualified proxy) must be in attendance at all times during the clinic and concert to assist the clinician and assist in supervising his/her students.

Student Responsibilities

1. Students are responsible for attaining the correct audition material from the ATSSB and Region 15/28 websites.
2. Students are responsible for reporting any mechanical problems to the monitor before beginning the etude portion of the audition.
3. Students are to stay out of the tryout room until it is their turn to audition.
4. Students are to refrain themselves from any activity that would identify themselves or their school during the audition.
5. Students who are selected as members of the All Region Band must attend all of the rehearsals for the All Region Clinic. A student may be excused from one of the three rehearsal blocks in the event of a UIL Activity, a school related activity, or in case of an emergency as determined by the region coordinator. The director must inform the region coordinator of the anticipated absence prior to the Friday evening rehearsal, or the student's membership will be forfeited and an alternate will be called. No excused absences are allowed for the Saturday concert. Being a member of the All Region Band is an honor for any student, and each student is expected to demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette at all times. Unacceptable behavior will not be tolerated. Consequences may include: loss of chair, loss of patch, and/or removal from the All Region Band.

Honorariums and Fees

1. The region band clinicians will be paid \$700 plus a \$50 per diem, actual hotel cost, mileage at \$.58/mile and/or actual commercial airfare (coach).
2. The Percussion Ensemble Clinician will be appointed from within the Region and receive a \$300 Honorarium, plus mileage at \$.58/mile

Duties of the Region Coordinator

1. Oversee junior high and high school all region auditions in matters such as dates, sites, judges and hosts.
2. Oversee the all region clinic/concert in matters such as dates, sites, hosts, clinicians and organizers.
3. Assign duties for preparation of programs for the clinic/concert
4. Contract recording and t-shirt companies
5. Oversee all region jazz auditions, clinic/concert, in matters such as dates, sites and hosts
6. Organize and appoint judges for OPS Region Hearing
7. Communicate with members of the region
8. Organize and set agenda for the region meeting
9. Manage the region's finances
10. Appoint/select organizers for the clinic/concert
11. Attend State Board of Directors meetings.
12. Present items for discussion to the State Board on behalf of the Region

Duties of the Region Band Organizers/MS Coordinator

1. There will be one organizing staff for each performing ensemble. The host school for the clinic/concert will not participate as an organizing band staff.
2. The MS Coordinator will work with the organizing staff of the MS All-Region band, be present and each rehearsal, and assist the conductor with anything he or she needs
3. Prior to the region auditions, the organizing staff will contact the clinician for their selected program and prepare the folders for distribution at the end of the auditions.
4. Set up prior to each rehearsal and final performance at the clinic.
5. Be present at all times during rehearsals and the performance
6. Assist the clinician with whatever he/she may need; including possible discipline and Sectionals
7. Make announcements to the band pertaining to meals, breaks, parade of colors, and the concert
8. Assist region coordinator
9. The designated percussion instructor of the organizing band staff will serve as the percussion organizer. The percussion organizer must be present to help with part assignment, securing needed equipment, and assisting with part learning if necessary.

Region Band Organizing Staff Rotation

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Junior High</u>	<u>High School</u>
2025-2026	Lyford	Valley View
2026-2027	Progreso/Monte Alto/Santa Maria	Hidalgo
2027-2028	Grulla	Santa Rosa/La Villa
2028-2029	La Feria	Raymondville

Outstanding Performance Series (OPS)

1. OPS is a recorded audition process to select the most outstanding Class 1C, 2C, 1A/2A, 3A and 4A concert band programs in the state each year.
2. Entry procedures and forms can be found online at: www.atssb.org then click on the OPS tab.
3. Directors will upload (as determined by the OPS state chair) their entries before the contest entry deadline.
4. Adjudication Rules and forms are also available at: www.atssb.org then click on the OPS tab.

Dear All Region Band Member,

Congratulations on earning a chair in the ATSSB All Region Band!!!! This is an experience that you will remember for years to come! Enclosed you will find music for the clinic/concert that will take place at Port Isabel High School on January 22-24, 2026. Please rehearse the music beforehand so that you and the conductor will have a positive musical experience! Our conductors are: Gabriel Molina: Jazz, Mr. Jose Guerrero: Percussion, Mr. Jason Younts: JH, and Mrs. Kathy Johnson: HS

Remember that you are expected to participate in the full duration of all rehearsals as well as the performance. Failure to attend a sufficient portion of the clinic will result in forfeiting your chair/patch in the band.

All Region Band Clinic/Concert Schedule

Location: Port Isabel HS

January 22^{***}, 23, 24, 2026

^{***} January 22 - All Region Jazz (2:30 p.m. set-up) 3:00 – 8:30 pm (dinner break 6:00-7:00 pm)

January 23 – (3:15 p.m. in your seats, warm up on your own)

3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 pm dinner break

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 pm rehearsal

January 24 - 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Rehearsal

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Rehearsal

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Parade of Colors Practice - auditorium

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Concert (HS Jazz, Percussion Ens, JH Band, HS Band)

- HS Jazz Band will rehearse from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (during Saturday rehearsal)

Be in your place with your instrument, music, **pencil**, and all materials needed before the designated rehearsal times. Do not make your clinician address you or your section on behavior issues. Remember that you are representing your family, community, school and our region. Congratulations on earning a chair in the All Region Band.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Keltner, ATSSB Region 15/28 Coordinator

ATSSB OPS REGION HEARING JUDGE VOLUNTEER FORM

Date: May 31, 2025

11:00 am

Raymondville HS Band Hall

(FIVE JUDGES WILL BE SELECTED FROM THIS LIST)

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