

## NYSSMA® Position Statement: Teacher Evaluation

The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA®) supports high-quality music education programs and effective means of evaluating the music achievement that results from them. NYSSMA® has a long history of developing and providing evaluation tools and methods for documenting the accomplishments of individual music students and groups of students in music ensembles. The organization supports the use of fair and valid assessments of music achievement and growth for several purposes, including the encouragement of high levels of music performance by students and the development of quality school music programs.

In the current environment where state government and local school districts may choose to use indicators of student achievement and growth as part of a review of teacher performance, NYSSMA® provides the following recommendations to help guide educators:

1. Since music teachers are primarily responsible for music instruction, any system that includes measures of student achievement or growth should focus on music achievement or growth.
2. A range of assessment types, including performance-based and written, should be used in determining levels of music knowledge and skills.
3. When generating and providing data related to music teacher performance, focus should be on the most important music learning by the teacher's students for the academic year (or semester when applicable) related to the relevant state and/or national arts standards. Results should be determined by skilled educators with an appropriate level of musical training in a fair and objective manner.
4. Sufficient resources, including instructional time, space, materials, equipment, and certified educators, must be provided in order for useable data on music achievement and growth to be gathered.

NYSSMA® will continue to support music educators by providing useful resources related to statewide education initiatives and local school music programs. Further information on this and other important music education topics can be found at [www.NYSSMA.org](http://www.NYSSMA.org).

Adopted by the NYSSMA® Executive Council, June 2012