

2022 WMEA High School All-State **New Housing Process and Policy**

Division of Responsibilities:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>WMEA</u>
Reserve hotel rooms in WMEA designated blocks to accommodate student(s) and chaperone(s.)	All local transportation.
Provide chaperone(s) staying at hotel per school district guidelines.	All meals starting with breakfast day two.
Safe, school district approved transport to and from Yakima.	Adult supervision between pick up at hotel each morning through drop at hotel each evening.
Chaperone ensures students get on WMEA bus each morning. Chaperone takes responsibility for student supervision upon drop at hotel each evening.	
All transport of student luggage.	

Chronological Logistics:

Friday (Wednesday for Jazz/Percussion Ensemble): Under school/district supervision, students check in to hotel, drop personal luggage, are fed dinner and then delivered to their rehearsal site. No meal provided by WMEA day one.

Upon conclusion of rehearsal, WMEA will transport all students to their hotel where they are released to school approved supervision until the following morning.

Saturday morning (Thursday for Jazz/P/E), WMEA will pick up students from their hotel and transport to breakfast and then to rehearsal site. Lunch and Dinner also provided by WMEA.

Upon conclusion of rehearsal, WMEA will transport all students to their hotel where they are released to school approved supervision until the following morning.

Sunday morning (Friday for Jazz/PE), all students check out of hotels, chaperones take possession of luggage. WMEA will pick up students from their hotel and transport to breakfast and then to rehearsal site. Lunch provided by WMEA.

WMEA provides transportation to concert sites. Upon conclusion of concert, all students released to parents/school personnel for safe transport home.

The new housing policy is as follows: In light of liability and safety concerns, WMEA will discontinue housing and chaperoning for participants in high school honor ensembles, including All-State and All-Northwest. Under the new protocol, WMEA will take responsibility for supervising students from the time they report for the first rehearsal of the first day until the conclusion of the evening rehearsal or event, at which point they will be released to the supervision of their school director or chaperone. School directors are responsible for following all guidelines established by their schools and districts to ensure that their students are appropriately supervised at all WMEA events.

Rationale: A number of concerns have been raised regarding WMEA’s practice of housing unacquainted students from different schools in rooms together, often sharing beds. There is no appropriate vetting process for juvenile participants that would guarantee students will not intentionally or unintentionally cause harm to one another in this situation. Transferring control of which students are rooming together to the local director minimizes the risk of impropriety. Any incidents of misconduct that do arise during hotel stays can be managed according to school protocols, as they would be for any other school trip. The new procedures will allow students in different performance groups but from the same school potentially to share rooms, and schools with low honor group enrollment would have the opportunity to coordinate lodging and supervision with participants from neighboring schools within their district and/or region.

What This Means: Schools will now be responsible for arranging lodging for their participating students, and provide a school/district approved adult chaperone(s) to supervise their students while they are at their hotel. WMEA will offer a block of hotel rooms for schools to choose from and **all students must stay in one of the hotels within that block**. WMEA will provide transportation from those designated hotels to rehearsal sites each morning and return transportation to hotels at the conclusion of each evening’s activities. WMEA will continue to assume full responsibility for high school participants during rehearsals and all all-state related activities.

Are there any exceptions? There will be no exceptions for the following reasons:

1. It creates/provides all participants with the same student experience.
2. The participation expense is equal for all selected students.
3. It strengthens WMEA’s ability to ensure student safety and that all students will be where they need to be, on time, and in the most efficient manner.

High School Housing Process and Policy: FAQs and What We Hope

Question: As a teacher with accepted participants, do I personally have to serve as my school's chaperone?

Answer: Not necessarily. You just need to arrange for, and ensure that a school/district approved adult serves in that role.

Question: Does the chaperone have to supervise kids during the day?

Answer: Absolutely not. They simply must get kids up and on the WMEA supplied bus to rehearsal each morning, and supervise them overnight once WMEA drops them off at the hotel each evening. Chaperones are totally free to spend each day as they wish.

What we hope: WMEA understands and appreciates that this is a significant change to past practice and will represent additional work and responsibility on the part of teachers, schools and families. Our hope is that teachers will network with one another, help each other within their building, school district and region.