

Results: KASTA All-State Orchestra Survey, Version 2 (2019)
Submitted January 17th, 2020

Question #1: “I am a member of KASTA.”

Seventy-two (72) Kansas string educators took this survey. Of these, 36 (50%) were KASTA members and 36 (50%) were non-members.

Question #2: “I teach one or more of the following (Check all that apply)”

Of the total participants ($N = 72$), 69.44% (50 respondents) taught high school strings, 56.94% (41) taught middle school strings, 43.06% (31) taught elementary strings, 34.72% (25) taught private studios, and 6.94% (5) taught strings in higher education institutions. Additionally, 9.72% (7) selected “Other.” Qualitative responses included: retired teacher, administrator, community orchestra director, performer, teacher of string students in a band program, K-5 Elementary music, and none. Findings suggest the vast majority of respondents (70%) teach strings at the high school level or middle school level (56%).

Question #3: If you teach at a Kansas K-12 public school, how is your school classified according to KSHSAA standards? A list of schools and their classifications can be found at <http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/General/Classifications.cfm>”

Of the total participants ($N = 72$), 40.28% (29 respondents) taught in 6A schools, 27.78% (20) taught in 5A schools, 11.11% (8) taught in 4A schools, 6.95% (5) taught in either 1A or 3A school. No respondents taught in 2A schools. Seven (9.72%) respondents indicated they did not teach at a Kansas K-12 Public School. Three (4.17%) respondents indicated they did not know how to classify their school. Findings suggest the vast majority of respondents (68%) teach strings at large schools with enrollments of 700 to 2500 students.

Question #4: “Please indicate the KMEA district in which you teach. Descriptions of each district can be found at <https://ksmea.org/districts/>.”

Respondents were from the following KMEA Districts:

Northeast = 26.39% (19 respondents)	Southwest = 6.94% (5)
East Central = 23.61% (17)	Northwest = 5.56% (4)
South Central = 23.61% (17)	Northcentral = 4.17 (3)
Southeast = 6.94% (5)	I don't know = 2.78 (2)

The majority of respondents (74%) were from the Northeast, East Central, and Southcentral KMEA Districts. A minority (23%) were from Southeast, Southwest, Northwest, and Northcentral KMEA Districts.

Question #5: “Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: I believe a second orchestra should be added to the All-State Orchestra event, which is held annually at the KMEA Conference”

Of the total participants, 44 (61%) agreed that a second orchestra should be added to the All-State Orchestra event (32 strongly agreed; 12 agreed). 17 (24%) of the participants disagreed with the proposal (11 strongly disagreed; 6 disagreed). 11 (15%) members indicated they were indifferent to the proposal. Data in Table 5.1 indicated membership had no effect on respondents' level of agreement with regards to adding a second all-state orchestra; both KASTA members and non-members responded similarly to the question #5. These findings agree with the 2018 KASTA All-State Survey, again suggesting that a majority of both members and non-members believe a second orchestra should be added to the All-State Orchestra event.

Table 5.1 Membership * Agreement Crosstabulation (N = 72)

		Agreement					Total
		SD	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	SA	
Membership	Yes	5	3	6	5	17	36
	No	5	3	5	7	16	36
Total		10	6	11	12	33	72

Of the 50 respondents that taught high school string orchestra classes, 29 (58%) agreed with proposal, 7 (14%) were indifferent, and 14 (28%) disagreed (see Table 5.2). These findings suggesting that a majority of high school teachers believe a second orchestra should be added to the All-State Orchestra event.

Table 5.2 High School * Agreement Crosstabulation (N = 72)

		Agreement					Total
		SD	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	SA	
High School	No	1	2	3	6	10	22
Teachers	Yes	9	5	7	6	23	50
Total		10	7	10	12	33	72

Question #6

A Qualitative analysis identified primary arguments for and against the proposal. Those who were in support of the proposal stated that it offered more Kansan students the opportunity to experience the Kansas All-State Orchestras. The Kansas' All-State Orchestra would also become more representative of Kansas musicians.

Those against the proposal were concerned that adding a second orchestra to the All-State Orchestra would "water down" the experience and become "less of an honor" for students. Doing so was thus "unnecessary." Other teachers were concerned that beginning a second orchestra would increase teachers' already excessive workload with little to no benefit. Still others were concerned that the current number of string players in the state could not support a second orchestra.

Question #7: "Should the second orchestra use a strings-only or full-orchestra instrumentation?"

A vast majority (74%) of participants believed the orchestra should be strings-only instrumentation, with only 26% supporting a full-orchestra instrumentation (see Table 7.1). Of the 50 respondents identifying as “high school teachers,” 41 (82%) believed the instrumentation should be that of a string orchestra; only 9 (18%) believe the instrumentation should be that of a full orchestra (see Table 7.2). These findings are in agreement with the 2018 All-State Orchestra Survey.

Table 7.1. Instrumentation Choices

Options	Total (%)
Strings-only instrumentation	53 (73.61%)
Full-orchestra instrumentation	19 (26.39%)
TOTAL	72

Table 7.2 High School * Instrumentation Crosstabulation

		String 1.00	Full 2.00	Total
High School	No	12	10	22
Teacher	Yes	41	9	50
Total		53	19	72

Question #8: “Should the audition process for the second orchestra be based on a 1) merit model, or 2) festival model? Merit Model: The best performers are selected by audition, regardless of district. Festival model: The best performers from each district are selected by audition. All districts are represented in the orchestra.”

Regarding the format of the audition process, a merit model was supported by a slight majority (52.78%) of respondents, followed by the festival model (38.89%; see Table 8.1). These findings are in agreement with the 2018 All-State Orchestra Survey.

Table 8.1 Merit vs. Festival Model

Merit model	38 (52.78%)
Festival model	28 (38.89%)
Other	6 (8.33%)
TOTAL	72

Of those that answered “others”, qualifying responses included:

- “I would really like to see a 1234 orchestra like what the band does.”
- “If the North Central district is able to bring their ensembles down to match the rest of the districts, then I think the Merit Model would fit best.”
- “Merit for the top group; festival for the second group”
- “Merit model, but everyone gets to have at least one kid.”