

Dear Directors,

We hope you had a wonderful break and are looking forward to a wonderful new year. It is our unfortunate duty to let you know that none of your students who auditioned for the Colorado All-State Band were selected as members or alternates.

Students HAVE NOT received any communication from us – Knowing how students can take this type of information hard, we feel it best that you communicate directly with the students, and on our behalf, thank them for submitting an audition.

We hope that you agree with us, that the selection to the group is simply the icing on the cake – the real benefit comes from the concentrated work to become a better musician and the skills learned in completing a major project like an All-State audition. If appropriate, we hope you will also pass this thought on for us.

Each year, directors ask us if we can get specific comments to release to help students know what was heard. Unfortunately, this is not an option for our evaluators, but this year, we have asked each of them to identify two or three “common themes” they heard in the auditions. We will be compiling this information and releasing it at the All-State review meeting and posting it on the website. You are welcome to download it and use it to help your students next year.

We are currently working on a session that we hope to present at either the CBA summer convention or the 2026 CMEA convention that deals with hints, tricks, and suggestions on how to help students have the best All-State audition experience possible. We hope to incorporate information we glean from our audition evaluators, the All-State steering committee members and our multiple years of experience in preparing students.

As you may know, there are many events for directors at the All-State Band weekend. We hope you know that you are welcome to attend any, or all of the events. If you want to attend the concert, let us know and we will have a comp ticket for you at the will-call window. A complete schedule and information will be posted on the website.

Thank you for your dedication to your students, and music education, and we hope that you will continue to encourage your students to take this risk.

Casey Cropp and Scott Schlup