

Florida Bandmasters Association
2026 ALL-STATE MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ BAND
AUDITION REQUIREMENTS (7th or 8th Grade)

1. All-State Middle School Jazz Band membership rules and regulations:
 - a. The student must be in the 7th or 8th grade.
 - b. The decision of the selection committee is final.
 - c. Only instruments listed on the All-State Application or in the 2025-2026 All-State Middle School Jazz Band Requirements printed in the handbook may audition.
 - d. The student must be a member of the band program at their school and have their name submitted on the proper All-State Application form. The Application form must be created in MPA Online and signed by the band director and principal. The Application form must be submitted by the deadline date set by the District.
 - e. The band director must be a member of FBA/FMEA by September 1, 2025.
 - f. Students selected for any All-State group must bring their own music stand, equipment, instrument(s), mutes etc.
2. All-State Middle School Jazz Band General Information:
 - a. Trumpet, Trombone, and Saxophone will be asked to perform their Chromatic Scale according to the FBA All-State requirements for the Middle School All-State "Concert" Band.
 - b. All wind and rhythm section etudes are provided by the FBA and can be downloaded from the All-State Page of the FBA website.
 - c. The improvisation materials for "Sonnymoon for Two" are selected from the Real Easy Book, Level 1 by the Stanford Jazz Workshop and Michael Zisman. For help with improvisation, see [Tricks and Licks](#) by Tim Ostrow.
 - d. Sight reading will follow a Bb or F Blues formula and include syncopated rhythms and triplets with accidentals. Harmonic instruments will comp over chord/rhythm changes with some written parts. Bassists will read a walking bass line. Drummers will comp on a swing groove with dictated wind parts and perform written fills.
3. All-State Middle School Jazz Band Audition Requirements for Saxophone, Trumpet, and Trombone.

When the student enters the room, he/she will be asked to perform:

 - a. The specific prepared etudes for their instrument as shown in the All-State Middle School Jazz Band Requirements. Performers should use appropriate jazz articulation (not necessarily indicated).
 - b. Chromatic Scale according to the FBA ALL-State requirements.
 - c. Improvisation – "Sonnymoon for Two" from *The Real Easy Book*. Play the Head TWO times (Part 1 - melody) and then improvise TWO choruses (24 Bars). [Click here for backing tracks](#) or scan the QR code on the next page. *Credit to iReal Pro for making the backing tracks.*
 - d. Sight-reading exercise. The student will have thirty seconds to study the piece before playing it.
 - e. **Lead Trumpet** – Students choosing to be considered for the lead trumpet spot must play the specified lead trumpet etude. However, the student must also perform the etudes for section trumpet. *NOTE: The Lead Trumpet audition will only require one audition entry code. Students auditioning for the lead chair will perform the optional Lead Trumpet etude during their section trumpet audition.*
4. Middle School All-State requirements for Piano, Guitar, and Bass

When the student enters the room, he/she will be asked to perform:

 - a. The specific prepared etudes for their instrument as shown in the All-State Middle School Jazz Band Requirements.
 - f. Improvisation – "Sonnymoon for Two" from *The Real Easy Book*. Play the Head Two times (Part 1 - melody) and then improvise TWO choruses (24 Bars). [Click here for backing tracks](#) or scan the QR code on the next page. *Credit to iReal Pro for making the backing tracks.*
 - b. Sight-reading exercise. The student will have thirty seconds to study the piece before playing it.
5. All-State Jazz Band Audition Requirements for Drum Set.

When the student enters the room, he/she will be asked to perform:

 - a. The prepared exercises for drum set as listed on the FBA All State Web Page.
 - b. The indicated number of measures in the three different styles listed below to demonstrate steady time keeping and rhythmic creativity. They should imagine themselves in a jazz combo situation backing a horn soloist.
 - a. Rock (16 bars) common time at quarter note = 76 bpm
 - b. Funk (16 bars) common time at quarter note = 120 bpm
 - c. Swing (32 bars) common time at quarter note = 144 bpm
 - c. Sight-reading exercise. The student will have thirty seconds to study the piece before playing it.

2025 - 2026 All-State Middle School Jazz Band Prepared Exercises
(7th and 8th Grade)

Alto Sax <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ #1 – MS Swing Etude: “Cry Baby” All ✓ #2 – MS Latin Etude: “Cha Cha Por Los Niños” All ✓ All-State Chromatic Scale ✓ Head and Improvisation of “Sonnymoon for Two” ✓ Sight Reading 	Piano <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ #1 – MS Swing Etude: “Cry Baby” All ✓ #2 – MS Latin Etude: “Cha Cha Por Los Niños” All ✓ Head and Improvisation of “Sonnymoon for Two” ✓ Sight Reading
Tenor Saxophone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ #1 – MS Swing Etude: “Cry Baby” All ✓ #2 – MS Latin Etude: “Cha Cha Por Los Niños” All ✓ All-State Chromatic Scale ✓ Head and Improvisation of “Sonnymoon for Two” ✓ Sight Reading 	Guitar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ #1 – MS Swing Etude: “Cry Baby” All ✓ #2 – MS Latin Etude: “Cha Cha Por Los Niños” All ✓ Head and Improvisation of “Sonnymoon for Two” ✓ Sight Reading
Bari Saxophone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ #1 – MS Swing Etude: “Cry Baby” All ✓ #2 – MS Latin Etude: “Cha Cha Por Los Niños” All ✓ All-State Chromatic Scale ✓ Head and Improvisation of “Sonnymoon for Two” ✓ Sight Reading 	Bass (electric and/or acoustic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ #1 – MS Swing Etude: “Cry Baby” All ✓ #2 – MS Latin Etude: “Cha Cha Por Los Niños” All ✓ Head and Improvisation of “Sonnymoon for Two” ✓ Sight Reading
Trumpet / Lead Trumpet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ #1 – MS Swing Etude: “Cry Baby” All ✓ #2 – MS Latin Etude: “Cha Cha Por Los Niños” All ✓ All-State Chromatic Scale ✓ Head and Improvisation of “Sonnymoon for Two” ✓ Sight Reading 	Drums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ #1 – MS Swing Etude: “Cry Baby” All ✓ #2 – MS Latin Etude: “Cha Cha Por Los Niños” All ✓ Grooves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rock (16 bars) common time at quarter note = 76 bpm 2) Funk (16 bars) common time at quarter note = 120 bpm 3) Swing (32 bars) common time at quarter note = 144 bpm ✓ Sight Reading
Trombone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ #1 – MS Swing Etude: “Cry Baby” All ✓ #2 – MS Latin Etude: “Cha Cha Por Los Niños” All ✓ All-State Chromatic Scale ✓ Head and Improvisation of “Sonnymoon for Two” ✓ Sight Reading 	Vibes <p>Auxiliary and drum set players are encouraged to learn the vibe etudes to play along with their middle school jazz band; however, there is no auditioned part for the Middle School All State Jazz Band.</p>

To practice with the improvisation backing tracks for “Sonnymoon for Two”, click the links under subjects 3 and 4 or scan the QR Code here (Credit to iReal Pro)

