



Colleagues,

The LMEA Executive Board has been closely monitoring all developments as relates to the reopening of Louisiana schools for the fall semester. After gathering as much information as possible from a variety of official sources, the Executive Board has concluded that “Plan A” as provided in our “Activities and Contingency Plans” is not feasible.

CDC guidelines, LDOE guidance, and individual school district travel restrictions for students and faculty members pointed us away from “Plan A” and towards “Plan B.” Shifting to “Plan B” will result in various adjustments and alternative strategies.

A traditional face-to-face State Music Conference will not be held this year. However, our Conference Chairman, James Hearne, will initiate a study on the potential of creating a “virtual” conference for our members similar to what other states and national organizations are doing. He will report back to the Executive Board on his findings and recommendations.

Along with our Executive Director, I will work to establish alternative dates and sites for our All-State performance during the spring semester of the 2020-2021 school year. Various Board members are engaged in continuing discussion and research on how to create an effective and fair audition process within all the appropriate safety guidelines. The Executive Board will be preparing a proposal for the full Board of Directors to consider in our August Board meeting.

Likewise, there is a consensus on the Executive Board that we should continue plans to provide performance assessments in the spring semester. A general outline of how this might work will be developed and presented to the full Board of Directors for consideration in August.

Scotty Walker, President
Louisiana Music Educators Association

The Louisiana Music Educators Association

2020-2021

Activities and Contingency Plans

PLAN A: Establish a calendar and prepare logistically for the traditional implementation of all-state, conference, and assessments with modification that align with safety guidelines, regulations, and economic realities.

PLAN B: This plan would likely be implemented if restrictions are prohibitive to live performances in the fall semester are but more conducive in the spring semester. Adjust calendar of activities, while planning and preparing logistically for a hybrid implementation of LMEA activities. This may include digital recordings for all-state auditions, virtual conference clinics, on-line business meetings, with all-state and spring assessment performances in a modified live setting and/or supplemented by digital/virtual tools. Possible adjustments in literature, audience, and adjudication procedures would be explored as the plan develops.

PLAN C: Adjust calendar of activities, while planning and preparing logistically for LMEA activities to be implemented in a completely virtual and digital manner. This plan would be implemented in the situation that all live gatherings of students and music educators would be prohibited throughout the school year.

PLAN D: Only under the most critical of circumstances would LMEA suspend all LMEA activities. Even in such an extreme situation, LMEA would strive to maintain support and networking for LMEA members, their students, and music programs.