



IHSA STATE FINALS BAND INFORMATION

The Illinois High School Association is pleased to invite all IHSA member schools to audition for selection as an IHSA State Finals Band. Schools bands contribute great energy and excitement to liven the each State Final event. Please consider taking this opportunity to showcase your school's talents at a State Finals venue. **Traditional pep bands and bands with vocalists are invited to audition.**

Included in this correspondence you will find information, audition requirements, and event schedules. We encourage you to participate in the audition process and feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need any additional information.

STATE FINALS INFORMATION:

Selected bands will be invited to perform one of the three days of the Girls Basketball State Finals, one of the three days of the Boys Basketball State Finals, or one of the two days of the Girls Volleyball State Finals. Due to the venue sizes, please note the listed personnel limitations for band members, band directors, administration, and band support.

Dates, times, and number of games for selected bands are as follows:

Girls Basketball - CEFCU Arena, Normal (ISU) - 60 max personnel

Band #1: 4 games on Thursday, March 6, 2025, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Band #2: 2 games on Thursday, March 6, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Band #3: 2 games on Friday, March 7, 2025, starting at 11:30 a.m.

****Band #3 has the option to play an additional game at 9:30 a.m.**

Band #4: 4 games on Saturday, March 8, 2025, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Boys Basketball - State Farm Center, Champaign (U of I) - 40 max personnel

Band #1: 4 games on Thursday, March 13, 2025, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Band #2: 2 games on Thursday, March 13, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Band #3: 2 games on Friday, March 14, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Band #4: 4 games on Saturday, March 15, 2025, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Girls Volleyball - CEFCU Arena, Normal (ISU) - 60 max personnel

Band #1: 4 games on Friday, November 14, 2025, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Band #2: 4 games on Friday, November 14, 2025, starting at 4:00 p.m.

Band #3: 4 games on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Band #4: 4 games on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

REIMBURSEMENT:

Each performing band will receive round trip mileage reimbursement at \$2 per mile plus a meal allotment of \$9 per person for the band members and director(s). A maximum number of **60 personnel (CEFCU Arena)** or **40 personnel (State Farm Center)**, including band members and director(s), will be allowed for admission and reimbursement. IHSA reimbursements will be sent to the school after the band performs. Tickets for additional band members and fans will be available for purchase.

LOGISTICS:

Designated space for the performing band will be provided at each site. An event manager from each venue will be available to answer questions and coordinate with each school. Performers will be admitted to the arena as a group at no charge only for those sessions in which they are scheduled to perform. Band members will not be admitted to any other sessions of any tournament without a paid ticket for admission as a spectator.

Each performing band will be asked to be in position and begin performing no later than 30 minutes before the start of each session (times listed on page 1). Band directors will coordinate with the event PA announcer to play in between announcements during pregame, timeouts, between quarters/sets, and postgame.

AUDITION CRITERIA & SELECTION PROCESS

Upload a video of your school band's performance to YouTube and submit the video link using the form at the bottom of this page. Please review the terms of the audition below and ensure that your video meets all criteria.

Video Length: At least 5 minutes and no more than 10 minutes; only the first 10 minutes of an audition video will be evaluated if the video is longer than 10 minutes.

Song Selections: Include a variety of energetic selections that will excite and engage spectators. Please do not include performances of the National Anthem or your school's fight song. Selections that encourage crowd participation are recommended.

Band Personnel: Band auditions must only include current bona fide high school students. Please do not include performances with adults, including band directors, or any other persons who are not members of the high school band. The video audition must only include performances from the 2024-2025 school year.

Video Quality: We want to see your band having fun! Ensure that the video quality will allow viewers to see your band's energy, enthusiasm, and any instrument choreography. Avoid pre-recorded audio that does not allow viewers to see the band.

Auditions will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- rhythm
- tone quality
- note accuracy
- intonation
- song selection
- energy/enthusiasm

Bands will be selected by the IHSA Office after adjudication by music educators. The band director and school administrator (principal or IHSA official representative) of selected bands will be notified, and the list of selected bands will be posted on the IHSA website (music menu page). Selected bands will be notified in late January.

Use the link below to submit your audition video and complete the requested information.

Deadline for submission is December 18, 2024

<https://forms.office.com/r/MYQZt0unXy>

HEAR FROM OTHER BAND DIRECTORS:

“The Columbia High School Pep Band was honored to be selected to rock the house at the state volleyball finals. CHS students had a blast performing in the amazing stadium at Illinois State University and adding energy to a sport for which we don't normally perform. We highly recommend this experience to all bands!”

~Columbia High School Band Director, Kristian Avise-Rouse

“Being selected as a state pep band is an experience our kids will never forget. Thank you, IHSA, for helping us make lifelong memories!”

~West Carroll High School Band Director, Emily Bressler



BAND AUDITION TIMELINE & CHECKLIST

1. Record your band showcasing their energy and enthusiasm and highlighting a variety of selections.
2. Upload a **5-10 minute** video audition to YouTube.
3. Complete and submit the online form by Wednesday, December 18th, 2024.
4. Selected bands will be notified in late January. Each school's principal or IHSA official representative and band director will be notified of selection.
5. IHSA will send additional information to selected bands with specific State Final event information for planning purposes.

Contact Dan Le (dle@ihsa.org) with any questions.