



Akron Youth Symphony's School Participation Policy

The Akron Youth Symphony has joined other youth orchestras across the country in requiring all Akron Youth Symphony musicians (enrolled in schools with music programs) to participate in their school music programs. This is an important statement of support for school music programs which serve a broad range of students with varying levels of ability. We expect our Youth Symphony musicians to participate in and be leaders of those school programs.

If a student is unable to participate in his or her school music program due to an academic scheduling conflict that cannot be resolved, the student, the school music teacher, and GAMA can try to develop a plan for involving the student with the school program in another manner.

Our goal in having this policy is twofold. We are committed to supporting all in-school music programs, and your participation is an important part of the success of those programs. In addition, we intend to support your development as a musician by requiring that you participate in ensemble playing as often as possible. One rehearsal a week is insufficient for the development of excellent ensemble skills.

For those students who may have come to view their school music programs in a less than positive light, we urge you to go to the school, to the teacher, and to the administration to advocate for the improvement of the school's music programs. The Akron Symphony and Akron Youth Symphony staff members are happy to provide resources for your advocacy efforts and help you in other ways.

Why students need to participate in school programs:

- AYS should serve as a supplement to, not replacement for, music in the schools.
- School fine arts programs are being cut or reduced all across the country. When top students leave the programs, performance levels suffer, adding fuel to the fire that music programs should be cut.
- Without school music instruction, most of the professional musicians in this area (and around the country) would not be where they are today.
- We rely on directors to encourage students to audition and to recommend students to help fill vacancies in our sections.
- If we want the schools to support us, we need to support the schools.

Absences will be accepted for required school ensemble events.

AYS members are REQUIRED to participate in the instrumental or vocal music programs at their respective schools when applicable. School ensemble participation forms will be sent to you with confirmation of your commitment to AYS, and must be returned before the beginning of the season. AYS tuition fees are nonrefundable once Commitment Forms are received. We thank you for adhering to our School Participation Policy.