

# UIL Choir Sight-Reading Evaluation Instruction Period Pilot Procedures

*2025-26 school year, pilot year one*

In lieu of C&CR Section 1111 the following procedures shall be followed by all choirs (MS and HS) in the pilot regions. Information specific to the pilot process is in red.

**2026 Participating Regions:** Each region will determine participation.

**Prior to the First Instruction Period:** At the conclusion of completing the written evaluation for a choir and prior to the start of the next choir's first instruction period the three judges may introduce themselves, then remain in the room for the instruction periods.

## **Voicing Requirements/Options:**

- Any choir singing a majority of SATB music in their concert program will be required to sight-read the SATB music designated for their conference.
- Any choir singing a majority of SAB music in their concert program may sight-read the SAB music designated for their conference.
- Any choir singing a majority of SA or TB in their concert program may sight-read the SA or TB music designated for their conference.

## **Score Study Period:**

- Prior to the first instruction period the director will be given one minute to study the sight-reading music full score during which time the director may take notes or utilize removable notes in the score, but may not mark directly on the score.
- During the score study period music will be distributed to the students, but the students may not view or study the music until the instruction period begins.

## **Instruction Periods:**

- Only one director may instruct and direct the ensemble.
- There shall be two instruction periods as follows.
  - 1) First instruction period for all varsity and non-varsity choirs: 6 minutes  
Sub non-varsity choirs may extend the first instruction period by one minute for a total of 7 minutes.
  - 2) Second instruction period for all choirs (varsity, non-varsity, and sub non-varsity): 2 minutes.
- At any time during the instruction period the tonic chord may be played once in block or broken chord style in any octave and the students may reproduce the triad using their preferred method of sight-reading (numbers, syllables, etc).
- At the discretion of the director the students may chant the rhythms and/or text, tap or clap the rhythms, and sing or hum the music individually, in small groups, or with the full ensemble.
- The director may instruct the group by tapping rhythms and talking about the music, but may NOT hum, sing, or allow any of the music to be played on the piano.
- Technology devices may not be utilized.
- Neither the director nor the students may mark on the music unless instructed to do so by a judge.

**After Each Instruction Period and Prior to Each Performance:**

- Immediately following each instruction period and prior each performance, the choir will be given the tonic chord in **block or** broken chord style **in any octave**. At that time the students may reproduce the tonic chord utilizing their preferred method of sight-reading (numbers, syllables, etc).
- The accompanist will then give the starting pitches, which each section and the director may sing utilizing their preferred method.
- After the choir has sung its starting pitches no further warm-up or musical instruction of any kind is permitted.

**Performances:**

- There will be two performances of the sight-reading music.
- **The director may initiate each performance by counting and/or audible cue.**
- Each performance shall be sung *a cappella* using the choir's preferred method of sight-reading.
- Each performance will be judged.
- The director may choose to have the choir perform the piece in any key.
- The director's decision to use text or not will have no bearing on the final rating.
- In the event the director chooses to stop the performance it should be for the sole purpose of designating a starting point. No further instructions may be given.
- A choir whose director makes an obvious contribution to the performance by either singing with or speaking to the students or making any other audible contribution while they are performing shall be disqualified. An obvious deliberate attempt by a director to be disqualified may result in the assignment of a rating by the adjudication panel. A judge's decision of what is obvious and deliberate is final.
- The choir's performances shall be evaluated by the adjudicators in accordance with the Texas Music Adjudicators Association sight-reading adjudication rubric and the performances shall be the sole criteria for assigning a rating.