

Dear School Administrator:

The Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) is one of the largest state affiliates of NAFME, the National Association for Music Education. Celebrating its 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary in 2024, OMEA serves Ohio's 1.8 million students in schools and universities across the state. Our membership includes active music teachers, collegiate members (prospective music teachers) and retired music teachers.

The 2024 OMEA Professional Development Conference (PDC) will be held in Columbus, from February 1-3, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center and nearby hotel properties. The OMEA PDC is the third largest music conference in the United States with sessions presented by nationally recognized master teachers demonstrating research-based, best practices in the field of music education. In addition, over 30 performing ensembles will present concerts showcasing the talents of Ohio's students.

The OMEA PDC partners with the Technology Institute for Music Education, (TI:ME), to provide every teacher in attendance with access to clinics and demonstrations of the latest music education technology. Included in the registration fee is access to the largest music trade show east of the Mississippi. Displays and virtual demonstrations by exhibitors from across the United States allow teachers to see new products available in the music industry.

With a few additional steps, teachers may use their conference experience to earn contact hour certificates, (nominal additional registration expense), and graduate level continuing education credit, (additional expense), for their licensure requirements.

Please visit our website to see updates and details regarding the conference. This website provides information about registration, housing and parking, contact hours and graduate credit, as well as lists of performing ensembles and presenters. To access the complete conference schedule, please follow our event on guidebook, which will be available in December.

Providing the opportunity for your music staff to attend this conference will have a direct and meaningful impact on the students in your district. If you or another administrator would like to attend the conference to checkout this opportunity first-hand, please contact my office at [executive\\_director@omea-ohio.org](mailto:executive_director@omea-ohio.org). I would be happy to provide you with a pass for any single day of the conference and answer any questions regarding how OMEA can assist your music staff.

On the attached page are some metrics from a typical conference, viewed through the lens of the *Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession*.

## ***Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession***

1. *Teachers understand student learning and development and respect the diversity of the students they teach.*
  - 7 hours of instruction regarding developmental characteristics of various age groups.
  - 7 hours relating to students' diverse cultures, language skills & experiences.
  - 13 hours of sessions that address students with disabilities and at-risk students.
2. *Teachers know and understand the content area for which they have instructional responsibility*
  - Band – 28 hours
  - Choir – 24 hours
  - Orchestra – 14 hours
  - Jazz – 6 hours
  - General Music – 38 hours
3. *Teachers understand and use varied assessments to inform instruction, evaluate and ensure student learning.*
  - 6 hours of instruction on curriculum and assessment.
4. *Teachers plan and deliver effective instruction that advances the learning of each individual student.*
  - 9 hours of instruction related to the learning needs of all students.
  - 27 hours of technology sessions, showing teachers how to use resources effectively.
5. *Teachers create learning environments that promote high levels of learning and achievement for all students.*
  - 15 hours dedicated to creating learning situations in which students work independently, collaboratively or as a whole class.
6. *Teachers collaborate and communicate with students, parents, other educators, administrators and the community to support student learning.*
  - 7 hours of sessions showing teachers how to collaborate effectively with other teachers, administrators and their local community.
7. ***Teachers assume responsibility for professional growth, performance and involvement as an individual and as a member of a learning community.***
  - In total, 255 hours of instruction are available over the three-day period, giving teachers the opportunity to take responsibility for engaging in purposeful professional development and positively impact the teaching quality, improvements and student achievement in their school.