

Large Group All-State SWIFT Session

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How does a group qualify for All-State?

- ★ At the end of the judging day at state competition, each judge independently and confidentially completes an [All-State ballot](#).
- ★ This ballot is not the same as the judging form used to give ratings throughout the day.
- ★ Judges are instructed to nominate only those entries they believe to be worthy of performing at All-State.
- ★ Judges may nominate as many or as few groups as they wish.
- ★ If an entry is nominated by **at least two** of the three judges from the center, that group will be an All-State group.

How does a group become Performing All-Staters for Large Group Speech?

- ★ Each judge ranks his/her nominations for All-State on the All-State ballot, and the group ranked at 1 is the group that the judge feels is most deserving of performing at All-State.
- ★ The All-State committee takes these rankings and completes the mathematical formula located on [pages 22-23 of the IHSSA constitution](#) to determine who has the highest rankings overall after calculating all of the category's judges' rankings together.
- ★ Each category allows only a certain number of performances at the All-State Festival. For example, only eight One-Act plays (two per district) perform at the All-State Festival.
- ★ The highest ranked performances perform at All-State. The rest become "Non-Performing All-State."

Frequently Asked Questions

If my group earned straight Division I ratings from all three judges, will they be All-Staters?

- ★ Not necessarily. Your group has to be nominated by at least two judges in order to be All-Staters. Many groups receive all Division I ratings without receiving any nominations for All-State.

If my group earned straight Division I ratings from all three judges, is it safe to say that at least one of those judges rated our group as deserving of All-State?

- ★ No. Many groups receive all Division I ratings without receiving any nominations for All-State.

My group received two Division I ratings, but the third judge gave them a Division II rating. Did the third judge ruin their chances of becoming All-Staters?

- ★ Not necessarily. Your group could still be All-Staters if they receive two nominations from the judges who gave Division I ratings.
- ★ A safeguard is provided through the mathematical formula on [page 23](#), which protects a highly ranked group as far as performing/non-performing, if there happened to be one judge who abdicated (did not nominate) when the other two did.

If my group received one Division I rating and two Division II ratings at state, is there any chance that they will become All-Staters anyway?

- ★ No, there is no chance. Even if the one judge who awarded a Division I rating had nominated them, they would not have had the second nomination required to make them All-Staters.

What if a judge ranks my group first, but no other judges ranked my group at all?

- ★ Two judges' nominations are needed, so unfortunately, you will never know that one judge thought your group had the best performance they saw all day.
- ★ Please do not ask your All-State committee member if one of your performances received a nomination. They cannot tell you this information; they are not even allowed to tell their fellow coaches.

Why isn't there a performing group from every state contest center? Both of the performing One Act Plays are from the same center, and no group from the other center gets to perform.

- ★ The process and formula for determining performing and non-performing are found in your [IHSSA constitution on pages 22-23](#). The rankings from all centers for each category (e.g., One Act Play) are calculated together, and performers are the top-ranked groups overall.

Aren't the judges and All-State committee biased toward certain school districts? Some school districts always have SO MANY all-state nominations, and it doesn't seem fair!

- ★ All schools perform under codes so judges do not know which schools they are nominating. Additionally, the school name is not known by the All-State committee member until all of the All-State ballots have been tallied. Finally, at the state office, All-State committee members check the work from other districts to make sure nothing has been miscalculated or missed.

How big of a deal is All-State, really?

- ★ It's a VERY BIG DEAL! It is a great honor to be an All-Stater, performing or non-performing. For example, in Group Improv, Iowa regularly has over 700 entries perform at districts, and of those, only 24 from the entire state get to perform at All-State. There are typically over 100 One Act Plays at districts in Iowa, and only 8 get to perform at All-State. All-State is a huge honor and should be celebrated, whether groups are performing or non-performing.

Is Non-performing All-State a big deal?

- ★ YES. It is SO DIFFICULT to become an All-Stater. If we had the time and resources, everyone selected would perform at the All-State Festival. However, we have neither the time nor the space to have every group perform, which is why we have a performing and non-performing honor to recognize all deserving groups.

How do I improve my chances of getting students into All-State?

- ★ Take your speech kids to the All-State Festival as spectators! There are amazing performances at All-State, and attending the festival with your team can inspire you all and demonstrate models for the quality of performance required to achieve this incredible honor.

Please share this information with students, parents, and other coaches!

Thanks to Pella coaches Suzi Jones and Ashlee Whittington for sharing their materials!