

## ASTA Standards for Successful School String/Orchestra Teachers

Approved March 21, 2015

ASTA has developed standards for string teachers and orchestra directors who are working in K-12 programs. Led by Dr Robert Gillespie, The Ohio State University, the teaching standards task force has recently revised the standards for use in helping to guide evaluations, inform administrators, and provide general insight into what ASTA believes are essential skills and qualities for excellence.

### I. **As a Musician**

- a. Performs at proficient technical level on at least one string instrument.
- b. Performs at a high level of musicianship in terms of musical and stylistic interpretation.
- c. Performs fundamental concepts on all other string instruments.
- d. Demonstrates the ability to play by ear and improvise.
- e. Demonstrates an advanced level of aural discrimination and sight-reading skills.
- f. Demonstrates competent orchestral conducting skills.
- g. Demonstrates a basic knowledge of performing and teaching brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments with an understanding of intermediate to advanced ensemble concepts.
- h. Demonstrates proficient keyboard skills with a minimum ability to accompany simple melodies using primary triads.
- i. Demonstrates an understanding of performance injury prevention.

### II. **As an Educator**

- a. Demonstrates a thorough knowledge of pedagogy for teaching all string instruments including both homogenous and heterogeneous approaches.
- b. Demonstrates a thorough knowledge of string teaching materials and orchestral repertoire at all levels. This includes a diverse range of repertoire of eclectic genres, cultures, and historical periods.
- c. Demonstrates knowledge of solo and chamber music repertoire for string instruments.
- d. Demonstrates the ability to arrange music for school orchestra.
- e. Demonstrates effective rehearsal techniques in string and full orchestra settings.
- f. Demonstrates effective classroom/rehearsal management.
- g. Demonstrates knowledge and awareness of current trends in string playing and education including electric or amplified string instruments and repertoire.
- h. Demonstrates effective methods of assessing and evaluating student achievement.
- i. Demonstrates knowledge of technology and its application to instruction and research.
- j. Demonstrates ability to gather, process, and effectively apply student data.
- k. Demonstrates knowledge, application, and assessment of comprehensive, sequential K-12 curricula with focus on string and orchestral teaching; for example, local, state, and ASTA Curriculum: Standards, Goals, and Learning Sequences for Essential Skills and Knowledge in K-12 String Programs.

