Achievement in Music Exams (AIM)

STRINGS

Illinois State Strings Exams 2026-2027

Benefits

These exams enhance brain development, confidence, analytical skills, orientation to detail, and long-term planning. They are significant in **college applications for placement and scholarships.** **Universities have** a holistic approach to evaluating students and give advantage to students involved in demanding extracurricular activities, such as music. We recommend that students complete as many levels as possible by the end of their **junior year in high school** and include the highest-level certificate with their college applications.
Success depends on the time student practices at home. **Passing grade** is 70% for each portion of the exam. Students can prepare multiple levels in one year.

- **No age limit**

Minimum Lesson Length Per Level

Applies to quartes 1-4
1-2 = 30 min
3-5 = 45 min
6-7 = 60 min
8-9 = 75 min
10 = 90 min
Multiple levels: teacher recommendation.

Exam Date and Location 2026-2027:

May 2, 2027, at NMA.

Fees

AIM 1-2 - $30
AIM 3-10 - $25 theory, and $25 performance.
Fees due at registration, payable by check or cash. For credit card payments additional $5 processing charge.

Registration deadline

Feb 24-Mar 24, 2027; registration link on NMA website home page when registration starts.

Exam Time

Please leave the entire day open until you will receive the exact exam time information **from your teacher, about a week before the exam.**

Adjudicators

Experienced members of the Music Teacher National Association from our area.