

Benchmarks for Evaluation

GRAMMY Signature Schools

- Excellent performance ensembles.
- High quality instruction in multiple musical genres is offered.
- High quality instruction is available to all students in non-performance music courses (e.g. music history, theory, electronic music, etc.)
- A variety of avenues to provide music education to a larger segment of the student body is offered (e.g. General Music and/or other courses for students not already part of performance ensembles).

GRAMMY Signature Schools “Gold”

- All of the above criteria.
- Quality string, wind/percussion, and choral performance ensembles.

National GRAMMY Signature School

- All of the above criteria.
- The best music program of the Gold schools.

GRAMMY Signature Schools “Enterprise Award”

- **Need:** The school music department must demonstrate financial need.
- **Goal and Objectives:** A school may apply for the Enterprise Award each year and receive it for two consecutive years. Part of the goal should include how the funds will improve the quality of the school music program to a level where it can compete yearly for GRAMMY Signature Schools status.
- **Creative Strategies:** The successful applicant will provide a creative and/or innovative strategy that will resolve a department wide need or challenge and, a description of how a one-time infusion of cash can provide such a resolution. Included in this strategy should be an explanation detailing how this program enhancement will achieve the stated goal.
- **Program Expansion:** A plan that includes making the department course offerings available to a wider portion of the student community is a benefit, but not to the detriment of improving the quality of the existing program.
- **Quality Performing Groups:** Demonstrated excellence in at least one performance ensemble (traditional or non-traditional is a benefit).
- **Program Support:** The school music program should have a support mechanism (e.g., parents, administrators, district, community, etc.) that will assist in successfully implementing the strategies outlined in the essay portion of the application. If a sufficient support mechanism does not exist, include a strategies for developing one.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Take no more that 10% of the essay to identify the challenge/need. The remaining 90+% should be dedicated to your proposed solution(s).

Award Recurrence Guidelines

GRAMMY Signature Schools – After receiving Signature School award for **five** consecutive years (in any combination of categories) the school must wait **one** year to become eligible to apply again.

GRAMMY Signature Schools Gold – After receiving the Gold Award for **two** consecutive years the school must wait **one** year to become eligible to apply again.

National GRAMMY Signature School – After receiving the National Award the schools must wait **three** years to become eligible to apply again.

GRAMMY Signature Schools Enterprise Award – A school may receive this award for **two** consecutive years the school must wait **one** year to become eligible to apply for any Signature Schools award.