

Partnering for TIA Success: Flexible Assessment with MakeMusic Cloud

We know that the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) process can feel daunting. Our goal isn't to add to your plate, but to provide a flexible vessel for your specific curriculum. Whether you need rigorous data collection or a simple growth measure, we are your partners in validating the incredible work you do in the music classroom.

The Basics: Access & Flexibility

1. How do my students actually get into the system?

We prioritize removing barriers so you can focus on music. Students can log in on virtually any internet-connected device—Chromebooks, iPads, or even their smartphones. To make it even smoother, we offer **Single Sign-On (SSO)** integration with Google Classroom, Canvas, or Schoology. Your students can jump right in using their existing school credentials—no new passwords to memorize.

2. How long does the assessment take?

We know your rehearsal time is sacred. Our system is built to fit the schedule you decide.

- **Performance Assessments:** These are generally quick. A typical performance excerpt (like a sight-reading exercise or a prepared piece) takes about **5 minutes per student**.
- **Knowledge Assessments:** If your district includes a theory or literacy component, these are typically designed to wrap up in **20–25 minutes**, however you can determine the length of your assessments to assess the material you want covered and time it should take to complete.
- **The Bottom Line:** Whether you need an extensive exam or a quick "exit ticket" check-in, the system adapts to your timeline.

3. Who determines the test content?

You do. This is not a "one size fits all" standardized test. MakeMusic Cloud is simply the platform that delivers your district's vision.

- **Aligned with TEKS:** We support assessments that align directly with your specific TEKS standards.
- **Your Curriculum:** Your district leadership works with fine arts experts—both internally and with our team—to ensure every excerpt and question reflects the actual instructional priorities of your specific ensemble and level.
- **Hybrid Options:** Our platform supports both performance-based evaluations (playing/singing) and written assessment questions (theory/literacy).

4. How does the MakeMusic team support us during this process?

We view ourselves as an extension of your district's Fine Arts team. We don't just hand you a login and walk away; we work collaboratively to ensure your project succeeds.

- **Consultation:** We have a dedicated team ready to share best practices and help map out your assessment strategy.
- **Content Creation:** We assist with the heavy lifting of creating or formatting the content to match your specific needs.
- **Implementation:** We provide training and support to ensure your teachers feel confident and supported from Day 1.

Performance, Tech & Data Integrity

5. How does the performance "Auto-Assessment" work?

This is where technology meets teacher expertise. When a student records their performance, our software provides immediate quantitative data on pitch and rhythmic accuracy.

Pro-Tip: For TIA purposes, you are not limited to the computer's score. You can attach custom rubrics to manually grade expressive elements—like posture, phrasing, and tone—ensuring the data reflects the "art" of the performance, not just the mechanics.

6. Can we do a "practice run" first?

Absolutely, and we highly recommend it. You can assign "trial assessments" prior to the official testing window. This allows students to get comfortable with the interface, check their microphone levels, and shake off the nerves so that the TIA data reflects their musical ability, not their tech skills.

7. How is the data handled for TIA validation?

We understand that data integrity is paramount for TIA.

- **Blind Grading:** To ensure fairness and eliminate bias, administrators can hide student names in the gradebook, allowing for "blind" grading by other staff members if your district requires it.
- **Easy Export:** All results can be exported instantly as a CSV or Excel file for seamless reporting to the state.

Real Talk: Overcoming Challenges & Celebrating Wins

8. What are the keys to a smooth process?

Based on our work with other districts, here is how we help you navigate common hurdles:

- **The "Tech" Factor:** Sometimes students skip steps in the submission process. Our Solution: We provide clear, student-facing guides and "practice run" protocols to ensure everyone knows exactly which button to press.
- **Testing vs. Performing:** Students may play well but struggle with written vocabulary. Our Solution: We help you balance your assessment portfolio so that it captures a holistic view of the student musician.
- **The Culture:** Students score better when they understand the "why." Our Solution: We encourage framing this not as a "test," but as a "performance opportunity." When the culture emphasizes growth, the data follows.

9. Is TIA actually working for other fine arts teachers?

Yes! In districts using these digital growth measures, fine arts teachers are successfully qualifying for Recognized, Exemplary, and Master designations.

- In some districts, over 80% of fine arts teachers met the growth targets required for TIA recognition.
- Teachers are finding that when the tool is flexible, the process becomes a powerful way to advocate for their program and their own professional excellence.