SKILL LEVEL LIST
Maine ASTA STATEWIDE STRING FESTIVAL

Please consult the following Skill Level List to determine which orchestras your students should join. Music should be sight readable and skill levels should be considered cumulative, with skills for each orchestra, including all of those from the previous orchestras.

Orchestra I –Rote ensemble - playing in half notes, quarter notes and eighth notes in the keys of D and G.
Hand shapes: Vln/Vla: 0 1 23
Cello: 0 1 34
Bass: 0 1 4

Orchestra II Easy reading ensembles in 2-5 parts, pieces in 2/4 and 4/4 meter playing in whole, half, dotted half, quarter, and occasionally eighth notes in the keys of D and G.
Hand shapes (same as above): Vln/Vla: 0 1 23
Cello: 0 1 34
Bass: 0 1 4

Orchestra III Reading ensemble as above, with addition of ¾ meter; add dotted quarter notes and slurs; add keys of C and A major; occasional use of accidentals.
Hand Shapes: Vln/Vla: 0 12 3 4, 01 2 3 4, 0 1 2 34,
Cello: 0 1 2 4, 0 1 2 4 (extension), 01 2 4 (reach back),
Bass: 1st and 3rd positions also ½ position.

Orchestra IV More difficult reading ensemble; add 6/8 meter, add dotted 8th notes, 16ths, triplets, and syncopations. Add keys of F and B-flat and some minor keys.
Hand Shapes: Vln/Vla: 01 2 34, -4, 1 2 3 (no open strings)
Cello/Bass: add 2nd and 4th positions.

Orchestra V Add divisi reading, meter and tempo changes, advanced bowing techniques (spiccato, tremolo, martele, etc.), and advanced left-hand skills (vibrato, trills, etc.). Keys up to four sharps/flats, including minors.
Shifting skills: Vln/Vla: 3rd position,
Cello: add ½ and 3rd positions
Bass: add 5th position.