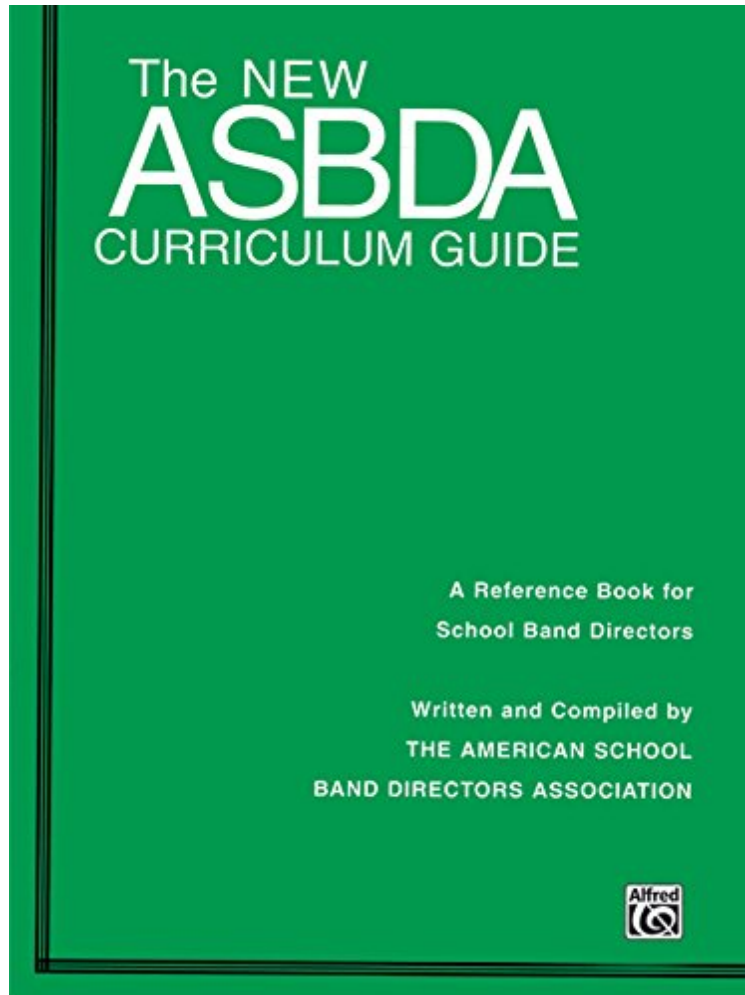


# The New ASBDA Curriculum Guide: A Reference Book for School Band Directors

*The American School Band Directors, ASBDA*  
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**The American School Band Directors, ASBDA : The New ASBDA Curriculum Guide: A Reference Book for School Band Directors** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New ASBDA Curriculum Guide: A Reference Book for School Band Directors:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. First year teacherBy Kevin FearnFirst year teacher having to build a curriculum....with no prior working curriculum...this book is a life saver! I am do glad I bought it!6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Fairly useful text, but probably time for another revisionBy LB236The ASBDA Curriculum Guide, 2nd edition, was first published in 1997. This book is a revision of the earlier 1st edition, originally published in the late 1970s. In this book the instrumental educator will find strategies for teaching concepts such as

pitch, rhythm, and style, along with indicators at each grade level of what students of instrumental music should be able to demonstrate. This book does have several weaknesses, in this reviewer's opinion. First, it appears to have an "ivory-tower" feel to it in regard to tone and writing style. One should follow the guidelines of this book simply because people much smarter than you decided that this is what children should be capable of demonstrating at any particular time. The guidelines come across as heavy-handed at times, and appropriate examples are not always present. Second, this book does not address the realities many instrumental music educators face in a post-No Child Left Behind environment. The text assumes, for example, that the reader will fall into one of three categories: an elementary (grades 5 and 6) beginning band teacher, a junior high (grades 7 and 8) intermediate band teacher, and a high school (grade 9 through 12) teacher. Consequently, it delves into great detail with regard to in-school private lessons and their relation to the teacher's overall course load. Unfortunately, at least in Ohio, the odds of a band teacher teaching only junior high or only high school are extremely limited now that we have been considered more "expendable", since music is not tested on standardized tests. Due to this, most directors in my area teach band at all age levels, grades 5-12, and do not have the time during the day to teach private lessons. This book is of little help in this instance to these teachers. Finally, this book addresses many of the same issues that state content standards in music are addressing. Considering that this book was written before states began implementing content standards in all subjects, including music, one can understand how this book served a purpose at the time. Now that states are supplying all educators with standards for their curricula, however, the value of this book is decreasing. Although it does offer band specific standards that may help the music teacher, these same standards could be formulated on their own by most intelligent music teachers from whatever standards their respective states supply. In closing, this reviewer feels that this book is slowly becoming a relic of a time before the advent of Highly Qualified Teacher programs; a time in which anyone with an undergraduate degree could teach and band programs were moving from concert to concert without any overall curriculum goals in mind. Now that states are providing standards in music to educators, this book grows less and less useful. Perhaps a 3rd edition is needed that reflects these changing trends in education; otherwise, this book will serve primarily as little more than a relic of a bygone era in music education.

The New ASBDA Curriculum Guide has been revised, updated, and in many areas completely rewritten. Topics include: The Performance Based Curriculum, Evaluation Procedures, Scheduling, Classroom Management, Administering the Band Program, Organizing the Physical Complex, and Budget and Finance. It's a terrific reference book for university students in instrumental methods classes, the new band director instituting, revamping, or maintaining a program, the experienced director who needs to rewrite the band curriculum, and the choral (or other) director placed in a band situation.