Criteria for Membership IN EL SISTEMA USA

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**Social Change**
- Central to the mission of the program is a demonstrated commitment to music as a vehicle for social change.
- Program has key individual or institutional partners that provide expertise in both music and community/youth/social development.

**Nucleo Environment**
- Students gather in a central location that serves as the program’s home and is a safe haven and emblem of music as a social change agent in the community.
- Programs demonstrate unifying practices that encourage students and teachers to know and support each other and develop a unique culture characterized by student driven activities, and instructor mentorship where students feel loved and valued as a member of the nucleo community.

**Excellence**
- Programs are of high quality; defined in part by regular musical instruction and established practices for measurable outcomes in both musical growth and positive social change.
- Central to the curriculum are practices which foster musical excellence at all stages of development.

**Community**
- Proven parental involvement and community engagement practices.

**Access**
- Primarily serve children with financial access barriers to other high-quality music programs.
- Provide programs in a manner that ensures equal access to all children regardless of ability to pay.

**Intensity**
- In order to provide all children with intensive opportunities to practice and excel, students have access to at least 5 hours of musical instruction per week.

**Ensemble**
- Emphasize ensemble programming as a core element of curriculum.

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**Continuum**
- Programs serve children for a minimum of 3 years and aspire to serve them beyond childhood and into young adulthood.

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