



National PTA Reflections® Program

Official Participation Rules



By entering the “National PTA Reflections Program,” entrants accept and agree to be bound by these Official Rules as well as the entry requirements for their specific arts category and division. Any violation of these rules may, at the PTA’s discretion, result in disqualification. (The “PTA” referred to in these rules includes all PTAs reviewing the entry.) All decisions of the reviewers regarding this program are final and binding in all respects.

Student Eligibility: The Reflections program is open to all Texas students who meet the necessary requirements:

Schools Supported by a Local PTA/PTSA

- Students must attend a school with a Local PTA/PTSA which attains Active Status¹ no later than October 31; or students must attend a school which is defined within the service area of a community-based Local PTA/PTSA which attains Active Status¹ no later than October 31.
 - The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member² of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.
- 1 Active Status requirements are stipulated as part of the Texas PTA Standards of Continuing Affiliation.
 - 2 The Local PTA membership year is August 1 – July 31 each year.

Home-School Families, Virtual Schools and Non-PTA Schools

- Students who attend a school that is not supported by a Local PTA/PTSA may participate through the Lone Star Statewide PTA¹, as long as the student or at least one person of their primary household is a member of this PTA no later than October 31. Joining is easy at www.joinpta.org².
- 1 Students who attend a school that is supported by a PTA/PTSA are not eligible to participate through the Lone Star Statewide PTA.
 - 2 When joining Lone Star Statewide PTA, select Statewide ISD as the district.

National PTA Reflections® 2026-2027 Theme: What My Culture Means to Me. Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the current theme will be accepted.

Grade Divisions: Students may enter the Reflections® program in the appropriate division for their grade.

Primary: Preschool – Grade 2

Middle School: Grades 6-8

Intermediate: Grades 3-5

High School: Grades 9-12

Accessible Arts: All grades welcome (please refer to the Accessible Arts rules)



If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, National PTA suggests they be grouped by age (Primary: Up to age 7; Intermediate: Ages 8-10; Middle School: Ages 11-13; High School: Ages 14+).

Arts Categories: There are six arts categories – dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and 2D visual arts. Students may enter the Reflections program in one or more arts categories with no limit to the number of entries in a single category. See each arts category’s rules for additional entry requirements.

Entry Requirements: (All participants must also follow arts category rules)

- **Student Entry Process:** The student entry form must be completed with signatures and all contact information requested. Local PTA Reflections chair information must be entered where requested.
- **All entries must include a title and an artist statement.** The artist statement communicates what inspired the work, how it relates to the theme, and the content of the work. The statement must include 10-100 words.
- **Each entry must be the original work of one student only.** An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student’s work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student’s individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed except in the Accessible Arts Division. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student’s work, but the work itself must be the creative product of one student only. See the specific arts category rules and Accessible Arts division rules for details.
- **Use of copyrighted material is prohibited,** except for recorded music in dance and film entries. Background music must be cited on the student entry form. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. *Plagiarism* is defined as using another person’s ideas, writings, or inventions as one’s own. Use of PowerPoint templates and generative elements (e.g., algorithmic techniques, artificial intelligence) is prohibited. Entries may include portions of copyrighted works; photos, printed type or digital media clippings, as long as those portions are used to create a new and different work of art.
- **Digital technology and/or software** can be used to develop, enhance, and/or present an entry, but may not provide the primary design and/or concept. Entrants must use the “Additional Details” field to provide a brief description of the tools and method used in the creation process, including any generative elements (10 to 50 words).

FINALIST SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION: Entries are reviewed at the local, council, state, and national levels. Each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Entries will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality, and creativity. The National PTA Reflections® program makes no restrictions on content or subject matter in artwork. Under no condition may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of any entry. Awards are announced at each level of judging at the Coordinator’s discretion. Texas PTA award results will be posted on the Texas PTA website in March. National award recipients are notified via email by National PTA in May. Each PTA in its sole discretion, will select finalists for exhibition and provide awards.

Ownership and License: Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes the entrant’s irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute, and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions.

PARTICIPATING ENTITIES: This program is administered by the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and PTA affiliates. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA are not eligible to sponsor this program.

For more information about the National PTA Reflections program in Texas, visit www.txpta.org/reflections.



National PTA Reflections®

Arts Category Rules



Choose one or more categories below to create original work that interprets the **2026-27 PTA Reflections theme: *What My Culture Means to Me***. Complete a student entry form and submit both to your PTA. *(Include arts category, grade and full name on back of artwork)*. Entries will be reviewed by experienced artists for interpretation of theme, creativity and technique. We look forward to celebrating your artistry and achievement in the arts!

Participation Requirements: The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member of the Local PTA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA may determine a date by which the member must join. For the full eligibility description and options for home-school families, virtual schools and non-PTA schools, please consult the Texas PTA Website at www.txpta.org/reflections-participation.

Entry Requirements: Each entry must be the original work of the participating student. Help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed except in the Accessible Arts Division (see Accessible Arts guidelines below). Other individuals may appear in or perform a student's work, but the work itself must be the creative product of one student only.

Use of copyrighted material is prohibited, except for recorded music in dance and film entries. Background music must be cited on the student entry form. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. *Plagiarism* is defined as using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Use of PowerPoint templates and generative elements (e.g., algorithmic techniques, artificial intelligence) is prohibited. Entries may include portions of copyrighted works; photos, printed type or digital media clippings, as long as those portions are used to create a new and different work of art. **Digital technology and/or software can be used to develop**, enhance, and/or present an entry, but may not provide the primary design and/or concept. Entrants must use the "Additional Details" field to provide a brief description of the tools and method used in the creation process, including any generative elements (10 to 50 words).

Dance Choreography: Solo and ensemble works of all dance styles are accepted. Entrant must be the choreographer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers. Entries with added graphics in the video are not accepted. If background music is used, cite on entry form. **Video** file must not exceed 5 min. and 1 GB in size. Accepted formats: AVI, FLV, WMV, MOV, MP4. **Packaging:** Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. If not, place flash inside envelope with student entry form attached to outside in sheet protector.

Film Production: Accepted short film styles include: Animation, narrative, documentary, experimental or multimedia. Use of PowerPoint is prohibited. Entrant must be the screenwriter, cinematographer, editor and producer. A tripod and remote may be used. If used, cite background music on the entry form. **Video** file must not exceed 5 min. and 1 GB in size. Accepted formats: AVI, FLV, WMV, MOV, MP4. **Packaging:** Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. If not, place flash inside envelope with student entry form attached to outside in sheet protector.

Literature: Accepted forms of fiction and nonfiction include: prose, poetry, drama, reflective essay, narrative and short story. Collections of literary work are not accepted. Entrants may write in their primary language as long as an interpretive English translation is provided. Original illustrations are accepted, but only the writing is judged. **Writing** must not exceed 2,000 words and may be handwritten or typed (single-sided, 8 1/2x11"). **Packaging:** Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. If not, place 1 copy of literature inside folder with student entry form attached to outside in sheet protector.

Music Composition: All music styles and combinations of instrumentation are accepted. Software may be used to produce an audio recording. Entrant must be the composer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted. **Audio** file must not exceed 5 min. and 1 GB in size. Accepted formats: MP3, WAV. **Notation:** Required for middle and high school divisions - score, tablature or written reflective statement that provides a musically technical explanation of how your music was created (100 words or less). **Packaging:** Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. If not, place flash inside envelope with student entry form attached to outside in sheet protector.

Photography: Photo must be a single print/digital image. Collages, collections of photos and added graphics are not accepted. Entrant must be the photographer and may use a variety of digital editing techniques. **Printed** images: between 3x5 to 8x10 inches. Glass frames are not accepted. **Digital** images: at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi resolution. Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, and PNG. **Packaging:** Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. If not, attach student entry form to back with sheet protector.

2D Visual Arts: Accepted forms of visual art include: original print, drawing, painting, collage (cut and pasted materials), metal etching or punch work, fiber work or computer-generated artwork. Dimensions must not exceed 24x30 inches, including mat. Check to see if your PTA is accepting entries digitally and follow their instructions. ***Physical artwork**, attach student entry form to back with sheet protector. Cover front of artwork with paper, securing it along one edge to the back of artwork without covering form and draping over front. Do not wrap in plastic or laminate entry. **Digital** image dimensions must be at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi resolution. Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, and PNG. **These guidelines are specific to Texas PTA. Texas PTA has made the decision to only accept 2D Visual Arts entries.*

Accessible Arts Division: is open to students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504. Students will participate against other Accessible Arts entries and are awarded as part of the division. Students may receive division-specific accommodations and non-artistic accommodations as outlined in the division guidelines. Students with disabilities who wish to enter the general category judging should follow the general rules and category guidelines, modified only by non-artistic accommodations specific and limited to the student's disability.



National PTA Reflections Accessible Arts Division Rules



ELIGIBILITY. The National PTA Accessible Arts division is an option for students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504. The division welcomes students of all ages and offers division-specific accommodations to ensure that every student has the chance to participate fully in the program. The other necessary requirements are as follows:

Schools Supported by a Local PTA/PTSA

- Students must attend a school with a Local PTA/PTSA which attains Active Status¹ no later than October 31; or students must attend a school which is defined within the service area of a community-based Local PTA/PTSA which attains Active Status¹ no later than October 31.
- The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member² of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join.

¹ Active Status requirements are stipulated as part of the Texas PTA Standards of Continuing Affiliation.

² The Local PTA membership year is August 1 – July 31 each year.

Home-School Families, Virtual Schools and Non-PTA Schools

- Students who attend a school that is not supported by a Local PTA/PTSA may participate through the Lone Star Statewide PTA¹, as long as the student or at least one person of their primary household is a member of this PTA no later than October 31. Joining is easy at www.joinpta.org.

¹ Students who attend a school that is supported by a PTA/PTSA are not eligible to participate through the Lone Star Statewide PTA.

Who qualifies as a disabled individual under the law? The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines an individual with a disability as a person who: (1) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of that person; (2) Has a record of such an impairment; or (3) Is regarded as having such impairment.

HOW TO ENTER. Students who identify as having a disability have two ways to enter the National PTA Reflections® Program. All students may enter in only one division. Student Entry Form requires parent/legal guardian signatures.

- **Option 1. Enter in Grade-Level Divisions:** Regardless of age, students with disabilities may enter in the grade division most closely aligned to their support needs. Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the grade division in which they compete. The divisions are as follows: Primary (pre-K – grade 2); Intermediate (grades 3-5); Middle School (grades 6-8); High School (grades 9-12).
- **Option 2. Enter in Accessible Arts Division:** Eligible students entering the division create their own artwork but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the Accessible Arts division.

DIVISION GUIDELINES. Student artists should follow the general rules and arts category guidelines specific to their submissions, modified only by accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

Allowable Accommodations: Any accommodation should be both specific and limited to the student's disability and should not impact the artistic process.

- The division will not be divided by age or traditional school grade level.
- Use of adaptive technology is allowed.
- While the artist directs the process, assistants (a parent, teacher, other adult) may help with executing the artist's vision with typing, transcribing, etc.
- Use the "Additional Details" field to provide details about how the student's disability and/or support needs impacted their creative process (10 to 100 words, optional).
- As necessary, students may select the grade-level division most closely aligned to their support needs.

Accommodations that are Not Allowed: Assistants to student artists may not, in any way, involve themselves in the actual artistic process or act without direction from the artist.

- Personally selecting a title for artwork and/or writing, editing or interpreting a student's artist statement.
- Drafting/editing language for literature or film; creating/editing footage or music.
- Composing music, writing lyrics, combining sounds; choreographing dance moves.
- Creating/editing visual arts; selecting subjects, edits and camera angles for photos.



2026-2027 PTA Reflections Program: What My Culture Means to Me

STUDENT ENTRY FORM

THE LOCAL (SCHOOL) PTA MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION BEFORE ADVANCING

Verify household membership and complete partial or illegible entry forms. CORRECT and COMPLETE CONTACT INFORMATION is VERY important as the entry progresses so the family receives information about possible awards and ceremonies.

School PTA Contact Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
Household Membership Verified by: _____ Date Member Joined: _____

Local (School) PTA must attain Active Status with Texas PTA by October 31st

☐ PTA has reported at least 20 members to Texas PTA ☐ Board Member Information Reported to Texas PTA

Please type or print clearly in black or blue ink (do not use pencil). This form must be completed in its entirety.

If additional space is needed, please continue on the back or a separate sheet of paper and clearly mark with your full name.

The student or at least one person from their primary household, must be a current member of the Local PTA/PTSA where the student is participating. Encourage members to join before judging begins.

REQUIRED PTA MEMBER NAME(S): _____ CHOOSE ONE: ☐ Current Member/Date Joined: _____

☐ Please contact me! We need to join.

The best way to contact me is by: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE: _____ AGE: _____ M/F/NA: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S): _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____ SCHOOL DISTRICT: _____

TEACHER NAME: _____ TEACHER EMAIL: _____

Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant's irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions. I agree to the above statement and the National PTA Reflections Official Rules. Signatures (typed or handwritten) are required for all entries.

Signature of student

Signature of parent/legal guardian (required if child is under 18 years)

JUDGING INFORMATION

GRADE DIVISION (Check One)

- ☐ PRIMARY (Preschool- Grade 2) ☐ HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)
☐ INTERMEDIATE (Grades 3-5) ☐ ACCESSIBLE ARTS* (All Grades)
☐ MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8)

ARTS CATEGORY (Check One)

- ☐ DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY ☐ MUSIC COMPOSITION
☐ FILM PRODUCTION ☐ PHOTOGRAPHY
☐ LITERATURE ☐ VISUAL ARTS

*Please refer to the Accessible Arts Guidelines if you believe your entry qualifies for this division.

Accessible Arts entrants should select both their grade division and the Accessible Arts box.

TITLE OF ARTWORK (REQUIRED): _____

ENTRY DETAILS: (Cite editing software used; Dance/Film: cite background music; Music: musician(s)/instrumentation; Literature: word count; Photo/Visual Arts: materials & dimensions) _____

ARTIST STATEMENT (REQUIRED): Statement must be 10 - 100 words describing how your work relates to the theme. *Many times, the artist statement will make a huge difference during judging because this is where you as the artist can explain in your own words, your thoughts and feelings for the piece.

