



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.