



# National PTA Reflections® Program

## Official Participation Rules



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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 PTA’s discretion, result in disqualification. (The “PTA” referred to in these rules include 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 Status<sup>1</sup> 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 Status<sup>1</sup> no later than October 31.
  - The student or at least one person from their primary household must be a current member<sup>2</sup> 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 PTA<sup>1</sup>, 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](http://www.joinpta.org)<sup>2</sup>.
- 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® 2023-2024 Theme: *I Am Hopeful Because...*** 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

**Special Artist:** All grades welcome (please refer to the Special Artist 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 visual arts. Students may enter the Reflections program in one or more arts categories with no limit to the amount of entries in a single category. See each arts category rules for additional entry requirements.

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

- **Student Entry Process:** The student entry form must be complete 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.
- **All entries must be the product of the participating student’s creativity.** The program is designed to encourage each student’s individual creativity, help from an adult (except in the Special Artist Division) is not allowed.
- **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 Special Artist 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. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. See the specific arts category rules and special artist division rules for details.
- **Use of copyrighted material is prohibited,** except for recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries. Use of background music must be cited on the student entry form. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. *Plagiarism* is defined as taking and using another person’s ideas, writings, or inventions as one’s own. Use of PowerPoint templates are prohibited.

**FINALIST SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION:** Entries are reviewed at 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](http://www.txpta.org) 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 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](http://www.txpta.org/reflections).