



## GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

**Failure to follow the stated guidelines could result in disqualification of student competing. Competitors must log into the EdRising Membership Portal to submit competition/contest applications.**

All students wishing to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference must complete 3 required steps:

1. **Be an Active level paid national member** of Educators Rising for the current school year. State-level membership must be paid, if applicable. To join as a National Active level member, [click here](#) to create your account and then complete the online application and purchase process.
2. **Complete the online application** and upload all required materials by the stated deadline on the [National Competition page](#) located in the Student Resources section in the EdRising Membership Portal. **This is NOT done automatically if you competed at a state or regional conference.**
3. **Register to attend** the Educators Rising National Conference.

### GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

**NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines.**

#### Eligibility

- Students must be a paid Active-level student member of Educators Rising no later than **February 1st** of the year in which they are competing. **Check or credit card payment must be received in the National Office by February 15th to be considered an Active-level member.**
- **Students may only compete in one competitive event.**
- **For contests:** Teacher leaders may enter up to two entries (individual or dual) per school in each event per division.
  - Dual means two students participating.
  - For dual entries consisting of students of varying grade levels, the entry will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- **For competitions:** Teacher leaders may enter up to two entries per school in each individual event per division and one team for team events per division. Competitions/contests which are marked as individual or dual will be considered individual events for this purpose.
  - All team events must have at least two students (and no more than four) per school to qualify.
  - For teams consisting of students of varying

grade levels, the team will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.

- If a competitor is from a state that holds state competitions/contests, they must first qualify in that given event at their state conference before competing in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference. Contact your state/regional coordinator to see if your state offers competitions/contests. Visit our [state program page](#) on the Educators Rising national website to contact your state/regional coordinator.
- For states that offer state-level competitions, the top ten places in each competition for each division offered by the state will be eligible to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference; for contests, entries scoring 97-100 will be eligible to advance to nationals; no other entrants from states that offer the competition/contests at the state level will be eligible for those state-level-offered competitions/and contests. For nationals, schools are permitted to replace up to fifty percent of the original team members that qualified at the state-level.
- For states that do not offer state-level competitions/contests, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference. This applies to all Educators Rising national competitions/contests.
  - For example, if you want to compete in Public Speaking but place eleventh or lower in your state-level Public Speaking

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competition or don't compete in the state-level competitions at all — you, cannot compete in Public Speaking at the National Conference this year. If you live in a state that didn't hold a Public Speaking state-level competition, you may register to compete in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference.

## Competition Entries

- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2023-2024 school year. Material that may have been created or submitted in previous years is ineligible.
- **In order to be scheduled to compete in a national competition, all competitor applications, national dues, and required materials must be submitted online by the deadline stated on the [National Competitions page](#) in the Student Resources Section of the EdRising Membership Portal.**
  - **All competitions and contests require an online application submission even if no additional items need to be submitted.**
  - For team competitions only one application should be submitted, all participating students are to be listed as team members in all places indicated on the application form.
  - Each competition guideline will identify what materials are required for submission prior to the competition. Failure to submit the required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification.
  - Students who have won state-level competitions must also submit their entries on the national website by the deadline to compete at the national conference. Your state does not do this for you.
- All video files that are submitted in advance must be uploaded to either YouTube or Vimeo and be linked on the application form. Videos will not be accepted by mail. **All competitors should also bring a copy of the video file on a USB drive to the conference.** Educators Rising competitions comply with FERPA regarding student privacy and video security. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their competition videos comply with local and state requirements regarding student privacy.
- Except when explicitly specified, the Internet may not

be used during a competition presentation at the Educators Rising National Conference. All relevant files and resources should be brought to the competition site on a USB drive. All Prezi files should be downloaded to the USB drive. Internet access may not be available during the competition. Laptops and projectors will be provided. Students should bring their own pointing device if needed.

## LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- The breakdown of grades noted below is used to designate levels for competition entries. Not all competitions are open to all divisions.
  - Middle School — Grades 7, 8
  - High School Junior Varsity— Grades 9, 10
  - High School Varsity level — Grades 11, 12
  - Collegiate level – Undergraduates only
- Teams consisting of students from varying grade levels will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- For Competitions: Medals and certificates will be presented to the top three entries in each division for individual competitions. Trophies and certificates will be presented to the top three entries in each division for team competitions. Places fourth through ten will receive electronic certificates after the conference. For Contests: Ribbons will be awarded to students in each category in each division with scores as follows:
  - Blue-Scores 98-100
  - Red-Scores 94-97
  - White-Scores 90-93

## Conference Registration, Attendance, and Participation in Events

- **All competitors must attend the Educators Rising National Conference and plan to arrive no later than 11 am on the first day of the conference.** Conference dates and locations will be posted on the Educators Rising website and Membership Portal.
- Competitors must report to their assigned areas on time. Failure to report at their scheduled time can result in disqualification. **Competition schedules will be posted in the [Educators Rising Membership Portal](#) one month prior to the conference.** Be sure to check these schedules prior to planning your travel. Competitors should plan to be available for competitions from opening day through the awards ceremony.
- Competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire. **(See the section Competition Dress Code for details on what is acceptable.)** Points will be deducted

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from the entrant's score for failing to follow the dress code.

- Spectators are only permitted in the competitions marked "Open to Spectators." This includes parents, chaperones, teacher leaders, and other attendees. Spectators may not coach or offer any verbal or nonverbal assistance to a contestant during that contestant's assigned time slot with the judges. A breach of this guideline may result in the disqualification of the contestant.
- Teacher Leaders, Chaperones, and Parents are prohibited from approaching judges to discuss scoring or feedback. All questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of a national office staff member.

## Competition Dress Code

All competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire when competing. Refer to the guidelines below for a detailed explanation of what is and is not permissible as "business casual."

- **Slacks, Pants, and Suit Pants**  
Slacks that are similar to Dockers and other makers of cotton or synthetic material pants, wool pants, flannel pants, dressy capris, and nice-looking dress synthetic pants are acceptable. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans, sweatpants, exercise pants, Bermuda shorts, short shorts, shorts, bib overalls, leggings, and any spandex or other form-fitting pants that people wear for biking.
- **Skirts, Dresses, and Skirted Suits**  
Casual dresses and skirts, and skirts that are split at or below the knee are acceptable. Dress and skirt length should be at a length at which you can sit comfortably in public. Mini skirts, skorts, sun dresses, and spaghetti-strap dresses are inappropriate.
- **Shirts, Tops, Blouses, and Jackets**  
Casual shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, tops, and polo shirts are acceptable. Educators Rising polo shirts are encouraged. Inappropriate attire includes tank tops; midriff tops; shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans; halter tops; tops with bare shoulders; sweatshirts, and t-shirts unless worn under another blouse, shirt, jacket, or dress.
- **Shoes and Footwear**  
Conservative athletic or walking shoes, loafers, clogs, sneakers, boots, flats, dress heels, and leather deck-type shoes are acceptable. Flashy athletic shoes, thongs, flip-flops, and slippers are not acceptable.

- **Hats and Head Covering**

Hats are not appropriate inside the building. Head covers that are required for religious purposes or to honor cultural traditions are allowed.

## Citations, References, and Copyrighted Material

- All ideas, text, images, and sound from other sources used for the competition must be cited in competition submissions.
- Competitors are strongly discouraged from using copyrighted material in their competition entries. If copyrighted material is used, written permissions must be obtained for the rights to display and present media-related materials at the Educators Rising National Conference and to post media-related materials on the Educators Rising website. All permissions obtained to use copyrighted material must be included with the entry submission. (Note: This requirement applies to music used in videos, graphics taken from the internet, and other media-related materials. It does not apply to artifacts collected for a project.)
- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited in all documents submitted. Judges can disqualify students from competing if it is determined that any part of their documents have been plagiarized.

## Electronic Devices

- Recording devices are not allowed in competitive events.
- All electronic devices—including but not limited to, cell phones, iPads/tablets, electronic readers, smart watches, etc.—must be turned off unless otherwise noted in specific event regulations.
- No electronic communication devices of any kind are permitted during competition.

## Student Responsibilities for Competitions

- Students who participate in any Educators Rising competitive event are responsible for knowing all updates, changes, and clarifications related to that event. Students and advisors must routinely check the EdRising Membership Portal for updated information.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the Educators Rising website, Membership Portal, and social media sites.

# CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING FOR EDUCATORS RISING NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

## Ready to compete at Nationals?

Here is a checklist to help you get prepared, registered,  
and on the official schedule for nationals!

SUBMISSIONS OPEN: **FEBRUARY 1, 2024 8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME**

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COMPETITION APPLICATIONS: **APRIL 8, 2024 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME**

DEADLINE FOR COMPETITORS TO REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE: **APRIL 8, 2024 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME**

- Review the full national competition guidelines and rubric.** Check the Resources Section in the EdRising Membership Portal. *Some processes may be different from your state/regional conference.*
- Update your contact information in the EdRising Membership Portal for the summer.** It is recommended that students use a personal mail address where they can receive Educators Rising email communication. Confirmations and reminder emails will be sent to the email listed on the competition application. Please note, that some school emails do not allow for Educators Rising emails to be received.
- Step one:** [Go to the National Competition page in the EdRising Membership Portal.](#) **Step two:** Click on the title of the competition for which you are signing up to compete. **Step three:** Read the guidelines and rubrics. **Step four:** Click Apply, which will take you to the national competition online application platform. All competitors must submit the online competition application even if no additional documents need to be submitted. *This only registers you for the competitions, you will still need to register for the conference separately.*
- Complete the online application, upload any required documents/video links, and submit.** Depending on your competition, some of these items are judged before the conference so make sure they are in their final form. Recommendation: Have someone proofread your documents prior to submitting them.  

*You must complete and submit the online application by the deadline stated on the [National Competitions page](#) in the Student Resources section of the EdRising Membership Portal to be registered to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference.*

*For competitions that have multiple students participating only one application should be submitted and all students need to be listed as team members in all places indicated on the application form.*
- Print and save your confirmation email.** You will need this information when you register for the conference.
- Register to attend the Educators Rising National Conference.** All national conference information, including how to register, can be found on the [Educators Rising National website](#).
- Find out when you are scheduled to compete onsite.** [Competition schedules](#) will be posted in the EdRising Membership Portal one month prior to the conference. Go to the Resources section to find the posted schedules. Be sure to check these schedules prior to planning your travel. Competitors should plan to be available for competitions from 1 PM (conference time zone) on opening day through the awards celebration on the afternoon of the last day.
- Practice, practice, practice!** The best way to prepare for your on-site competition is to practice in front of your peers. Recommendation: Reread the National Competition Guidelines and Rubric for your competition.
- Head to Nationals!** The top 10 for each competition and the students scoring 90-100 for each contest will be announced at the National Conference Awards Celebration on the final day of the conference. Don't miss your chance to be recognized! Be sure that when you plan your transportation for the conference you can attend this final celebration.



## PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

**COMPETITION TYPE:** Individual — Open to spectators

**ELIGIBILITY LEVELS:** Middle School, High School Junior Varsity, High School Varsity, Collegiate

**EDUCATORS RISING STANDARDS:**

- Standard I: Understanding the Profession
- Standard II: Learning About Students
- Standard VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice

### Contest Purpose

Self-composure, confidence, and the ability to clearly articulate and communicate information are valuable skills for all educators. The Public Speaking Competition is designed to highlight students who demonstrate these qualities by combining thoughtful preparation and confident delivery into an interesting presentation on a current education topic.

Students participating in this competition will compose and deliver a speech of approximately 400 to 600 words (three to five minutes when spoken aloud) on the assigned topic. Contestants will be delivering their speech in front of on-site judges.

### Assigned Topic

**The topic for the 2024 Public Speaking Competition: Showing the good in public education**

The public's perception of what goes on in schools and classrooms is shaped by many factors. Much of the media coverage tends to focus on what's going wrong in public education. Negative social media posts about education and individual schools and teachers also garner more attention from the public.

These negative stories about education overshadow the positive things that happen in schools. Human nature is partially responsible – we are drawn to the drama of negative events and crises. But another reason is that teachers often don't highlight the stories about student successes and don't talk about the joys and satisfaction of their profession.

In an interview with Kappan magazine, 2023 National Teacher of the Year Rebecka Peterson encouraged teachers to celebrate their profession and take control of the narrative about public schools. "I've been telling teachers that we're the ones in the classroom, we hold the chalk," she said. "We are the ones who should be talking about what's going on in the classroom. We shouldn't be allowing other people to direct that narrative because we're the ones on the ground."

How can students and teachers influence the narrative of public education? Why is it important to share the good things that happen in schools and classrooms every day? And how can teachers and students share the good without minimizing or negating the challenges teachers face or the work that still needs to be done?

(Citation: <https://kappanonline.org/interview-ntoy-rebecka-peterson>)

## Competition Guidelines

- A. The speech must be about the assigned topic. Research and use of data are encouraged.
- B. The length of the speech should be approximately 400 to 600 words (three to five minutes when spoken aloud) in length.
- C. Two copies of the Public Speaking Competition speech script must be brought to the competition and given to the judges at the start of the contestant's presentation.
- D. The contestant may use up to five 4x6-inch index cards while delivering his or her speech. Only one side of each index card may be used for notes.
- E. Each presentation is to be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of five minutes. Contestants will respond to judges' follow up questions. The entire presentation and question session will last a total of no more than 10 minutes.
- F. One judge will also serve as timekeeper. Speakers will receive a visual, non-verbal indication that there is one minute remaining when they reach the four-minute mark of their speeches. Speakers will be stopped at five minutes.
- G. A lectern and microphone will be available for the presentation.
- H. One visual aid may be used, but this is entirely optional. AV equipment will not be available for this competition.

## Judging and scoring

1. The judges' decisions are final.
2. Scoring is based on the Public Speaking Competition rubric.

## Application

All competitors must complete the online application and upload any required materials by the stated deadline on the [National Competition page](#) located in the Student Resources section in the EdRising Membership Portal. **Deadline extensions will NOT be granted.**



# PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY, HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY, COLLEGIATE)

## DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

Judges should use this rubric as a guide to assigning points on the Feedback & Tally Sheet.

### Presentation Content

Points Available	15–13 Accomplished	12–9 Commendable	8–5 Developing	4–1 Needs Improvement
Depth	The speech reflects a deep and comprehensive understanding of multiple factors and points of view involved in the issue. It succeeds in uncovering root issues and proposing compelling, well-founded solutions.	The speech reflects understanding of the issue and succeeds in proposing well-founded solutions.	The speech is on-topic. Responses offer multiple good points, but would benefit from more exploration, detail, or research.	The speech reflects limited or flawed understanding of the issue. Solutions offered may not be plausible. An effort by the speaker to prepare by gathering relevant information may not be evident.
Insight	The content of the highly focused speech reflects keen understanding and striking insight into a major public issue.	The speech offers useful, well-detailed ideas that warrant further exploration beyond this session.	The speech offers intuitive ideas that would have benefited from further unpacking in this session.	The inconsistently focused speech may offer ideas that are only partially developed and feel incomplete.

### Presentation Delivery

Points Available	10–9 Accomplished	8–6 Commendable	5–3 Developing	2–1 Needs Improvement
Structure	The speech reflects truly impressive, nuanced command of how to build and deliver a powerful message. The speech is successfully and strategically sequenced to move the listener.	The speech reflects a largely successful effort to develop a compelling message to the listener.	The speech follows traditional structure. While on-topic, the speech lacks strength at one or more moments. The structure may be lacking or weak in one or more areas.	The speech reflects an attempt to address the prompt but is missing multiple necessary components to offer a cogent, compelling message.

### Presentation Delivery Cont.

Points Available	10–9 Accomplished	8–6 Commendable	5–3 Developing	2–1 Needs Improvement
Presence	The speaker’s sustained eye contact, effective posture, and professional demeanor, expertly complement the substance of the speech to deliver maximum possible impact to the listener.	The speaker’s mostly sustained eye contact, positive posture, and pleasant demeanor complement the content of the speech quite well. The presenter may appear to slip in and out of character when beginning and concluding the speech. With further practice, the speaker could develop into an accomplished public presenter.	The speaker’s inconsistent eye contact, posture, and demeanor reflect a straightforward recital of the material. The speaker could do more to fully capitalize on the added impact possible with a focused, sustained presence.	The speaker’s eye contact, posture, and demeanor could benefit from more practice and coaching so that the speaker’s presence consistently complements the content.
Vocal Delivery	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are expertly crafted to deliver to the listener maximum impact and understanding.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are strong. The listener is able to understand what the speaker is conveying.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are straightforward. The listener is able to understand, but the impact would be increased with a more dynamic vocal delivery.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are inconsistent during the speech. At times, the vocal delivery distracts from the content of the speech and diminishes its potential impact.

### Overall Impact

Points Available	20–16 Accomplished	15–11 Commendable	10–6 Developing	5–1 Needs Improvement
Overall Impact	The content and delivery blend seamlessly to craft an exceptional experience. The speech is ready right now to be delivered to policy-makers and education stakeholders because it has potential to sway the debate on this issue.	The content and delivery work to offer a commendable speech. With some revisions and delivery tweaks, the speech would be ready to deliver to policy-makers and education stakeholders.	The speech reflects a developing effort to engage in oratory on public issues. The speech’s delivery and content have room for improvement.	The speech requires significantly more work. Delivery and content would benefit from guided practice. Significant errors may distract from the content of the speech.





## Length

Points Available	6	3	0
Length	Speech is between four and five minutes.	Speech is between 2.5 and less than 4 minutes.	Speech is shorter than 2.5 minutes or had to be stopped at 5 minutes.

## Speech Copies

Points Available	4	0
Speech Copies	Contestant provided two hard copies of the speech to the judges at the start of the presentation.	Contestant did not provide two hard copies of the speech to the judges at the start of the presentation.

# PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY, HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY, COLLEGIATE)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School, City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

- Judges will use the Detailed Scoring Rubric as their guide to score students' competition entries.
- Points and feedback will be emailed to the student competitors no later than two weeks after the conference.

## Presentation Content

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Depth	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	
Insight	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	

## Presentation Delivery

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Structure	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	
Presence	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	
Vocal Delivery	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	

## Overall Impact

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Overall Impact	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	

## Length

	4-5 Minutes	2.5 – less than 4 Minutes	Less than 2.5 Minutes or had to be stopped at 5 Minutes	Score
Length	6	3	0	

## Speech Copies

	Provided 2 Copies	Did not provide 2 Copies	Score
Speech Copies	4	0	

**TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/90**

**FEEDBACK FOR STUDENTS:** Write two or more sentences.