



GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS – As of 8.19.2024

NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines. Guidelines are subject to change. Please refer to the EdRising Membership Portal for the latest version.

Failure to follow the stated guidelines will result in disqualification of student competing.

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. [Click here to join.](#)
2. **Complete the online application** and upload all required materials in their final form 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.

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 that 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 competitive events. Visit our [state program page](#) on the Educators Rising national website to contact your state/regional coordinator.
- For states that offer state-level competitive events, 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, you must compete in a state level event in order to be eligible to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference. Only entries scoring 97-100 will be eligible to advance to nationals. No other entrants from states that offer the competitive events at the state level will be eligible for those state-level-offered competitive events.
- For nationals, schools are permitted to replace up to fifty percent of the original team members who qualified at the state- level.
- For states that do not offer state-level competitive events, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference. This applies to all Educators Rising national competitions. This does not apply to contests since you must qualify at state first before moving to nationals in any competition.

GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION CONT.

- For example, if you want to compete in Public Speaking but place eleventh or lower in your state-level Public Speaking 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.
- Students who have won state-level competitive events 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.

Division 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.

Application and Submission

- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2024-2025 school year. Material that may have been created or submitted in previous years is ineligible.

- **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.**

Deadline extensions will NOT be granted.

- **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 before the competition. Failure to submit the required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification. All submitted materials must be in their final form.

- 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. We recommend that all competitors 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.

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 before the conference](#).*** Be sure to check these schedules before 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 may be deducted 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

GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION CONT.

nonverbal assistance to a competitor during that competitor's assigned time slot with the judges. A breach of this guideline may result in the disqualification of the competitor.

- 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.

Judging and Scoring

- All competitions will be recorded to allow for review when determining placement.
- Scoring is based on the posted individual competition rubric.
- Final scores will be based on a scaled score. Scaled scores are calculated through a number of methods including judges tie breakers and room normalizations.
- **Judges will break ties in all competitive events.**
- To accommodate a large number of competitors, we use multiple rooms each with its own set of judges. To ensure fairness across these rooms, we employ a well-established mathematical method to normalize scores. This method helps balance judge subjectivity and ensures all competitors have a fair shot, regardless of their assigned room.
 - In each competitive event, each competitor gets an average score from the judges. That score is averaged with the partner judge. If there is a deviation of more than one standard deviation between rooms, the two rooms are normed against one another to that deviation. Final scores used for ranking are the normalized (also known as scaled scores).
 - When normalizing scoring, perfect scores will be excluded from the normalization process. If more than one student in the same division in the same competition receives a perfect score, a second set of judges will review the recorded presentations for those students to make a final decision.

Awards

- 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. All places 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

Inquiry Process

- Following the conference, the student scores will be released directly to the participating student(s). The scores will provide individual judges' scores, the average score for the two judges, and the normalized score (if necessary.)
- Students will have 3 business days to file an inquiry regarding the validity of their score. Students will be required to complete the online inquiry request form and submit all required documentation for consideration. **No appeal will be accepted after the 3-day period.**
- Staff will review the scoring and respond to the inquiry within 30 days. **All decisions are final.**

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, nice-looking dress synthetic pants and jeans without holes are acceptable. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans with holes, 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 political messaging and/or potentially offensive, 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.

GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION CONT.

- **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 permission must be obtained to display and present media-related materials at the Educators Rising National Conference and 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.

Use of AI

- Unless specifically stated in the guideline, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) software and programs is strictly prohibited in creating and preparing all materials submitted for Educators Rising competitions. This includes but is not limited to, documents, graphics, speeches, videos, and presentations. All submitted work must be the original and independent creation of the participant. Use of spelling and grammar check is allowed.
- Students competing will attest that they did not use any AI in the development and delivery of their competition. Students who are found in violation will be disqualified from the competition.

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 deadlines, 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.

DEADLINES AND CHECKLIST

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, 2025 8:00 A.M.** EASTERN TIME

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COMPETITION APPLICATIONS: **APRIL 7, 2025 5:00 P.M.** EASTERN TIME

DEADLINE FOR COMPETITORS TO REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE: **APRIL 7, 2025 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. Often 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 by the stated deadline.** 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 before submitting them. Only competitors who register by the deadline will be scheduled to compete.
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 and application number.** You will need the application number when you register for the conference.
- Register as a competitor for 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!** National placers 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.



EXPLORING NON-CORE SUBJECT TEACHING CAREERS COMPETITION

COMPETITION TYPE: Individual — Closed to spectators

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

EDUCATORS RISING STANDARDS:

- Standard II: Learning About Students
- Standard VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice

Contest Purpose

When most people hear the word “teacher,” they think of an educator in a classroom leading a lesson on English language arts, math, science, or social studies. However, these core subjects are only a few of the career opportunities for creative teachers. This competition offers students the opportunity to shadow and learn from highly skilled educators whose work takes place outside the core subjects.

Some examples of non-core-subject teachers include agriculture, bookkeeping, accounting, business, cooperative education, health education, health occupations, family and consumer sciences, technology education, marketing education, trades and industry, computer science, driver education, journalism, outdoor education, physical education, psychology, sociology, speech, business data/processing, and library science.

Interested Educators Rising students will select one host teacher who works in their state and will receive permission from the professional to job shadow him/her for a total of eight hours. The eight hours are not expected to be consecutive; rather they are accumulated over a period of several days or weeks and occur when the host teacher is actively engaged in his/her work.

Competitors will complete and submit when registering for the competition, the following two career-exploration documents:

- [Host teacher’s verification form](#)
- [Interview form](#)

Competitors will also create a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation no shorter than five minutes and no longer than seven minutes that will be presented on-site to a panel of judges, followed by a discussion featuring questions from the judges. Presentations should reflect on the experiences and insights gained into the career.

Competition Guidelines

- A. The host teacher's verification form must be completed and submitted online when registering for the competition.
- B. The competitor must conduct a 15-minute interview with the host teacher. Competitors will also submit the interview form online when registering for the competition. The interview form must be typed. Handwritten forms will not be accepted.
- C. All documents must be typed in English.
- D. Competitors will deliver a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation no shorter than five minutes and no longer than seven minutes reflecting on their experience and insights gained into a career in non-core subject teaching. Competitors should bring their presentation on a USB drive. **Note: Competitors should not bring portfolios or other materials to onsite judging. These items will not be reviewed by judges.**
- E. 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 six-minute mark of their speeches. Speakers will be stopped at seven minutes.
- F. Competitors will respond to judges' follow-up questions. The entire presentation and question session will last a total of no more than 15 minutes.



EXPLORING NON-CORE SUBJECT TEACHING CAREERS COMPETITION

HOST TEACHER'S VERIFICATION FORM

- This form should be completed by the host teacher who participated in the Exploring Non-Core Subject Teaching Careers Competition.
- The competitor will submit the completed form with the other competition entry documents. This form must be typed for submission.

ABOUT THE COMPETITOR

Competitor's Name

Name of Competitor's School

ABOUT THE HOST TEACHER

Host Teacher's Name

Host Teacher's Subject

Name of School

Total Number of Job Shadowing Hours Competitor Completed

Dates During Which Job Shadowing Took Place

Host Teacher's Signature

Date



EXPLORING NON-CORE SUBJECT TEACHING CAREERS COMPETITION

INTERVIEW FORM CONT.

Competitor will write in at least three additional interview questions and will record summaries of the host teacher's responses. Please type all questions and responses. Responses to interview questions should be summarized in one paragraph format.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

1.

2.

3.

Note: Be prepared at the on-site competition to summarize, reflect on, and draw conclusions from the content of your interview — do not merely repeat the interviewee's words.



EXPLORING NON-CORE SUBJECT TEACHING CAREERS COMPETITION

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

DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

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

PRE-SCORED COMPONENTS

Verification form

Points Available	5	0
Verification form	Competitor submitted a verification form with all fields completed and signed by the host teacher.	Competitor did not submit a verification form or all fields were not completed and/or were not signed by the host teacher.

Interview Form Content

Points Available	20-16 Accomplished	15-11 Commendable	10-6 Developing	5-1 Needs Improvement
Interview Form Content	The document reflects consistent thoughtfulness and professional-caliber thoroughness. The competitor brings out key insights with clarity and nuanced understanding.	The document reflects focus and a commitment to capturing the interviewee’s ideas. More nuance and depth would make the document reflect professional-caliber thoroughness.	The document reflects compliance but a little more. More thorough responses on the document would demonstrate a deeper understanding of the career being explored.	The document is inconsistent in its thoroughness or professional appearance. Responses may reflect an incomplete understanding of the content.

Interview Form Mechanics

Points Available	5 Flawless	3 One to two errors	1 More than two errors
Interview Form Mechanics	Mechanics — including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. — are without error.	Mechanics — including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. — contain one or two errors.	Mechanics — including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. — contain more than two errors and distract from the content and quality of the work.

COMPONENTS SCORED ON-SITE

Presentation

Points Available	15-13 Accomplished	12-9 Commendable	8-5 Developing	4-1 Needs Improvement
Content of Slides	The content of the slides reflects consistent thoughtfulness and thoroughness. The competitor expertly leverages the visual medium to bring out key insights with clarity.	The content of the slides reflects a commendable commitment to sharing key facts and details of the competitor's experience and research through a basic slide deck.	The content of the slides reflects compliance but minimal insight. The images employed may be basic or not entirely effective at amplifying the competitor's messages.	The content of the slides reflects inconsistent focus and quality. The images or text may distract the audience from the competitor's intended message, or that message may lack focus. Content may be missing, off-topic, or superficial.
Presentation of Slides	The presentation of the slides reflects consistent thoughtfulness and thoroughness. The competitor expertly leverages the medium of a slide deck presentation to bring out key insights with clarity and professionalism. The slides amplify — and never distract from — the clear and substantive messages being communicated.	The presentation of the slides reflects a commitment to sharing key facts and details of the competitor's experience and research. The competitor utilizes a basic slide deck to share information. The presentation could benefit from a small number of tweaks to be consistently professional-caliber.	The presentation of the slides reflects compliance with the guidelines but does not explore the material with sufficient depth to achieve a strong impact.	The presentation of the slides reflects an incomplete understanding or focus. The presentation may be basic or contain moments that distract from the competitor's messages. Those messages may lack clarity or focus.
Presence	The competitor's sustained eye contact, effective posture, clarity of voice, and professional demeanor, expertly complement the substance of the presentation to deliver the maximum possible impact to the listener.	The competitor's mostly sustained eye contact, positive posture, clear voice, and pleasant demeanor complement the content of the speech quite well. The competitor may appear to slip in and out of professional character when beginning and concluding the speech. With further practice, the speaker could develop into an accomplished public competitor.	The competitor's inconsistent eye contact, posture, clarity of voice, or demeanor may reflect a straightforward recital of the material. The competitor could do more to fully capitalize on the added impact possible with a focused, sustained presence.	The competitor displays effort but his/her eye contact, posture, clarity of voice, or demeanor could benefit from significantly more practice and coaching so that the speaker's presence consistently complements the content.



Presentation Cont.

Points Available	15-13 Accomplished	12-9 Commendable	8-5 Developing	4-1 Needs Improvement
Depth of Analysis	The competitor synthesizes his/her learning from the career exploration experience with skill, clarity, and depth.	The competitor offers good ideas and insight about the career exploration experience but stays primarily at a surface level for analysis.	The competitor depends significantly on reciting the interviewee's words or providing a limited analysis of the career exploration experience.	The presentation offers very little or no insight or quality analysis into the competitor's takeaways from the career exploration experience.
Q&A	The competitor's responses in the Q&A session demonstrated consistent thoughtfulness and professional-caliber insight, rooted in the deep experience of exploring this career path. The competitor displays impressive, professional-level depth of knowledge and understanding given his/her experience and research.	The competitor's responses in the Q&A session demonstrated thoughtfulness and reflected successful attempts to address most of the material posed to him/her. The competitor displays some substantive knowledge and understanding of the selected career based on his/her experience and research.	The competitor's responses in the Q&A session reflected a broad spectrum of levels of quality from answer to answer.	The competitor's responses in the Q&A session reflected limited understanding or misunderstanding of the presentation guidelines, expectations, or the career to be explored.
Overall Impact	The presentation is thoroughly professional caliber in the expert blending of style, substance, and impromptu responses to questions.	The presentation is commendable for its effort and the presenter's desire to take on this challenge the competitor makes direct, straightforward points that could convey greater impact with guided practice in presentation creation and delivery.	The presentation reflects a developing effort to explore the selected career. Additional depth or articulating understanding would improve the presentation significantly.	The presentation requires a significant re-examining of the career exploration process undertaken for the competition. Limited depth or misunderstanding hindered the presentation from offering the level of insight that it could.

Length

Points Available	5	3	1
Length	Initial presentation (before Q&A) is between 5 and 7 minutes.	Initial presentation (before Q&A) is at least 3 minutes and less than 5 minutes.	Initial presentation (before Q&A) is less than 3 minutes or had to be stopped at 7 minutes.



EXPLORING NON-CORE SUBJECT TEACHING CAREERS COMPETITION

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

Student Name: _____

Student's School, City, State: _____

Organization & Job Title of Student's Interviewee: _____

- 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.

PRE-SCORED COMPONENTS

Verification form

	Submitted	Not submitted or missing items
Verification form	5	0

Interview Form Content

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Interview Form Content	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	

Interview Form Mechanics

	Flawless	One to two errors	More than two errors	Score
Interview Form Mechanics	5	3	1	

VERIFICATION AND INTERVIEW FORM PRE-SCORE _____/30

Presentation

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Content of Slides	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	
Presentation of Slides	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	
Presence	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	
Depth of Analysis	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	
Q&A	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	
Overall Impact	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	

Length

	5 - 7 Minutes.	3 – less than 5 Minutes	Less than 3 Minutes or had to be stopped at 7 Minutes	Score
Length	5	3	1	

PRESENTATION ON-SITE SCORE _____/95

TOTAL SCORE _____/125

FEEDBACK FOR STUDENTS: Write two or more sentences.

