



# 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).



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# National PTA Reflections®

## Arts Category Rules



Choose one or more categories below to create original work that interprets the **2023-24 PTA Reflections theme: I Am Hopeful Because...** Complete a student entry form and submit both to your PTA. *(Include arts category, grade and full name on back of artwork or envelope)* Submissions 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/PTSA where the student is participating. Each Local PTA/PTSA may determine a date by which the member must join. For the full eligibility description and participation options for home-school families, virtual schools and non-PTA schools, please consult the Texas PTA Website at <http://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 Special Artist Division (see Special Artist 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.

**Copyright:** Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters or likeness thereof, is not acceptable in any submission, with the following exceptions: entries may include public places, well-known products, trademarks or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good. Collages may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as photographs, magazine clippings, internet images and type cut out of a newspaper, as long as those portions of copyrighted works are used to create a completely new and different work of art.

**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. 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:** Flash or disk 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, director, editor and producer. If student chooses to appear in film, a tripod and remote may be used. If background music is used, cite it on the entry form. **Video** file must not exceed 5 min. and 1 GB in size. Accepted formats: AVI, FLV, WMV, MOV, MP4. **Packaging:** Flash or disk 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. Entrants may write in their primary language as long as an interpretive English translation is also attached. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. **Writing** must not exceed 2,000 words and may be handwritten or typed. Accepted format: Single-sided on 8 ½x11" paper. **Packaging:** 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. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. **Audio** file must not exceed 5 min. and 1 GB in size. Accepted formats: MP3, WAV. **Printed 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:** Flash or disk inside envelope with student entry form attached to outside in sheet protector.

**Photography:** Photo must be a single print/digital image. Collages and collections of photos are not accepted. Entrant must be the photographer and may use a variety of digital editing techniques including but not limited to, multiple exposure, negative sandwich and photogram. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited; however, photographs may include public places, well-known products, trademarks or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. **Print** image dimensions must be no smaller than 3x5 inches and no larger than 8x10 inches. Framed prints are not accepted. **Digital** image dimensions must be at least 640x960 (pixels) and 300 dpi (resolution). Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, and PNG. **Packaging:** attach student entry form to back with sheet protector.

**Visual Arts:** Accepted forms of visual art include: 2D original print, drawing, painting, collage (cut and pasted materials such as clippings and photos), metal etching or punch work, fiber work or computer-generated artwork. Frames and artwork containing loose materials are not accepted. Matting is accepted. Dimensions must not exceed 24x30 inches, including mat. Paper entries should be mounted on sturdy material. **Printed:** attach student entry form to back with sheet protector. Cover front of artwork with butcher (or like) 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. \*Note these guidelines are specific to Texas PTA. While other states are incorporating additional 3D art mediums, Texas PTA has made the decision to only accept 2D Visual Arts entries.

**Special Artist Division:** Students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504 may enter in the Special Artist Division or grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. The **Special Artist Division** welcomes all grades and all abilities and offers non-artistic accommodations (e.g. adaptive technology; transcribing; holding a camera) for students to participate fully in PTA Reflections. Assistants must refrain from being involved in the artistic process (e.g. developing an artist statement, choreography, music lyrics, storyboards, etc.) Student recognition and awards are announced as part of the Special Artist Division.



# National PTA® Reflections

## Special Artist Division Rules



**SPECIAL ARTIST ELIGIBILITY.** The National PTA Special Artist Division is an option for students with disabilities who receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504 to have the opportunity and accommodations they may need in order to participate fully in the program. The Special Artist Division offers modified rules and guidelines to ensure that every student has the chance to be part of the National PTA Reflections® 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 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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>1</sup> 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 special needs may enter in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. Students may not receive assistance other than that which is allowed for all children. The divisions are as follows: Primary (preschool – grade 2); Intermediate (grades 3-5); Middle School (grades 6-8); High School (grades 9-12). Students are recognized and awarded as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges.
- **Option 2. Enter in Special Artist Division:** Eligible students entering the Special Artist Division create their own artwork, but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. Students are recognized and awarded as part of the Special Artist Division.

**SPECIAL ARTIST GUIDELINES.** Special artists should follow the general rules and guidelines outlined in the arts category student rules specific to their submissions, modified only by accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The accommodation, in general, should be both specific and limited to the student's disability.

**Allowable Accommodations:** Given the diverse range of physical and mental disabilities that exist, it would be impossible to outline specific accommodations for each and every disability, but the following provides a non-exhaustive list of allowable accommodations:

- The Special Artist Division will not be divided by age or traditional school grade level.
- Use of adaptive technology is allowed.
- All submissions must be solely created by the special artist. However, a parent, teacher or other adult may assist the special artist with typing, holding a camera, etc.

**Accommodations that are Not Allowed:** Individuals providing assistance to special artists may not, in any way, involve themselves in the actual artistic process by:

- Personally selecting a title for artwork.
- Writing, editing or interpreting a student's artist statement, story, poetry or script.
- Choreographing a dance, composing music or writing lyrics.
- Drawing, painting or personally creating a visual arts submission, choosing a camera angle, etc.



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 onto 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.

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) SPECIAL ARTIST\* (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 Special Artist Guidelines if you believe your entry qualifies for this division.
Special Artist entrants should select both their grade division and the Special Artist box.

TITLE OF ARTWORK (REQUIRED):

ENTRY DETAILS: (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.

Blank lines for artist statement

# PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM THEME SEARCH CONTEST



Where do you find  
your inspiration?

National PTA is seeking a theme  
for the next Reflections program

The student who submits the  
winning entry will receive \$100!

Use this form to brainstorm, then visit  
the Texas PTA website to submit your entries.

As repeat themes will not be considered, please review the past themes.  
We look forward to your creativity!

**ONLINE SUBMISSIONS  
DUE NOVEMBER 5TH**



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Theme Ideas

Name

Grade

School Name

Parent Phone Number

Email Address

Now ask your parent or teacher if they will help you submit your themes at [www.txpta.org/reflections!](http://www.txpta.org/reflections!)