

NATIONAL GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all national 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. **Replacements can be made up to 7 days prior to the conference. No replacements can be made after this time or onsite.**
- 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.
 - For example, if you want to compete in Public Speaking but place eleventh or lower in your

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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.

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
- Registering in the incorrect division will result in disqualification.
- 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 2025-2026 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.** 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.
 - **For team competitions only one application can be submitted** which lists all 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 competitors also bring a copy of the video file in MP3 format 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 and stay through the awards ceremony on the final day.** 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 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 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.

Judging and Scoring

- Scoring is based on the posted individual competition rubric.

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- 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.
- **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

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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, 2026, 8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME**

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COMPETITION APPLICATIONS: **APRIL 6, 2026, 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME**

DEADLINE FOR COMPETITORS TO REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE: **APRIL 6, 2026, 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. Only one application is to be submitted for Dual or Team competitions. *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.



TEACHER CREATED MATERIALS CONTEST

COMPETITION TYPE: Individual/Dual — Closed to spectators
ELIGIBILITY LEVELS: Middle School
EDUCATORS RISING STANDARDS:

- Standard I: Understanding the Profession
- Standard III: Building Content Knowledge
- Standard V: Implementing Instruction

Contest Purpose

Teachers know that students learn in many different ways. Some students learn best through games, movement, music, visuals, hands-on activities, storytelling, or teamwork. One of the most exciting parts of being a teacher is creating learning materials that help students understand concepts in fun and meaningful ways.

The Teacher Created Materials Contest gives students the opportunity to think like real educators by designing and presenting original teaching materials for a lesson of their choice. Contestants will create materials that teach a skill or concept while keeping students actively engaged in learning.

Teacher-created materials may include:

Board games	Flashcards	Folder games	Posters or flip charts
Interactive notebooks	Puppets	Learning Stations	Lap Books
Manipulatives	Classroom activities	Educational kits	Models or hands-on activities

This contest allows students to demonstrate creativity, communication skills, problem-solving, and an understanding of how teachers help students learn.

Contest Guidelines

Contestants must include a display that includes:

SUMMARY SHEET

A. Participants will create a Summary Sheet (150-250-word) that must be placed in a folder and include:

- Title of the activity or lesson
- Names of all contestants
- School name, district, city, and state
- Instructional objectives (What students should learn)
- Target audience (grade level or group)
- Size of the audience
- Explanation of how the materials would be used in a classroom

- Word Count

The Summary Sheet will also be uploaded with the application and will be pre-scored prior to the conference.

TEACHER CREATED MATERIALS

B. Contestants must create original educational materials that support the lesson or activity.

Materials may be:

- Handmade
- Digitally designed
- Purchased and modified
- Computer generated

All materials must follow the Educators Rising copyright guidelines.

Display Rules

- The display should be presented on a table.
- Displays may NOT be traditional bulletin boards.
- All materials must fit within a 36" space on the table.
- Contestants should clearly display the title of their project.

PRESENTATION

- C. Presentation should give an overview of the project and discuss the educational importance, classroom use, and benefits for students.
- Presentation must be between 3-5 minutes.
 - No audio/visual equipment is allowed.
 - Contestants may use only their created materials during the presentation.
 - Presenters will receive a silent warning when one minute remains.
 - Presentations will stop at five minutes.

D. Presentation should address these areas

Overview of the Project

- What the activity teaches
- Why the topic was selected
- Who the lesson is designed for

Educational Importance

Explain:

- How the materials help students learn
- Why the activity is engaging
- How the materials support different learning preferences

Classroom Use

Describe:

- How a teacher would use the materials
- How students would interact with the activity
- How learning would be assessed

Benefits for Students

Contestants should explain how the materials:

- Improve understanding
- Increase participation
- Encourage creativity
- Support Teamwork or communication skills
- Make learning more enjoyable

- E. A five-minute Q&A section will follow the presentation to allow judges to ask questions.
- F. Contestants will take their materials with them after the presentation.
- G. The goal of this contest is not just to make something creative — it is to design materials that help students learn effectively. Successful projects combine creativity, organization, engagement, and strong educational purpose.



TEACHER CREATED MATERIALS CONTEST

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

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

PRE-SCORED COMPONENTS

Summary Sheet Guideline Adherence

Points Available	15-11 Accomplished	10-6 Commendable	5-1 Developing
Details/word count	The summary sheet is 150-250 words and includes all seven required contestant detail components including the title of the activity, names of presenters, school, district, city, state, and word count.	The summary sheet is 100-149 words and/or contains 4-6 required contestant detail components (title of the activity, names of presenters, school, district, city, state, and word count.)	The summary sheet is less than 100 words and/or contains less than 4 required contestant detail components (title of the activity, names of presenters, school, district, city, state, and word count) or was not submitted.
Target Audience & Size of group	The target audience and size of the audience are clearly identified and are age appropriate.	The target audience and size of the audience are implied but not clearly identified or are only semi-appropriate.	The target audience and/or size of the audience are not identified or are inappropriate.
Instructional Objectives	The objectives are clear and explain the purpose of the display.	The objectives are mostly displayed with their basic functions. Describes the general purpose of a display.	Objectives are slightly displayed. Shows a basic understanding of the display's purpose.
How-To-Use details.	Use details are clear, concise, and easy to follow. Interactive elements will enhance student learning.	Use details are mostly clear and easy to follow. Includes some interactive elements to enhance student learning.	Use details are unclear or hard to follow. Lacks interactive elements or the elements are not effective.

COMPONENTS SCORED ON-SITE

Display Guidelines

Points Available	5	0
Title of Activity	Activity title is part of the display and clear.	No activity title is displayed
Display Size	Display is 36 inches on the table or less	Display is over 36 inches on the table

Creativity

Points Available	10-7 Accomplished	6-4 Commendable	3-1 Developing
Overall Creativity	Fun and imaginative way of sharing information.	Shares information with limited imagination	Information is shared with little or no imagination used
Originality of Ideas	Unique use of creative and imaginative ideas	Seems to be inspired from other sources, not totally unique	Does not reflect the students' own ideas.

Design of the Project

Points Available	10-7 Accomplished	6-4 Commendable	3-1 Developing
Elements of Design	Skillfully incorporates form, shape, line, texture, color, and space. A professional-caliber display, with no spelling errors.	Unskilled incorporation of form, shape, line, texture, color, and space. A nearly professional-caliber display, with 1-3 spelling errors.	Little consideration of form, shape, line, texture, color, and space. The display needed more attention to detail.
Practicality	Can be used in the educational setting without much difficulty	Can be used in the educational setting, but with some difficulty	Can be used in the educational setting but would be hard to use.
Effectiveness of Instruction	Activity enriches and reinforces (reteaches) stated learning objectives.	Activity slightly enriches or reinforces stated learning objectives	Activity is limited and neither enriches nor reinforces stated learning objectives
Interactive	Student interactive opportunities are obvious for material to be used effectively	Student interactive opportunities are obvious for material to be used effectively	Student interactive opportunities are obvious for material to be used effectively



Presentation

Points Available	10-7 Accomplished	6-4 Commendable	3-1 Developing
Depth	The presentation showed a deep understanding of the materials and the educational content. The student expertly explains the display to creatively showcase the materials.	The presentation shows an understanding of the materials and the educational content, as well as a thoughtful display of the materials.	The presentation is on-topic and offers some good points, though it would benefit from greater exploration and detail into the materials and their educational significance. The content of the display reflects compliance but minimal depth.
Structure	The presentation and display reflect an impressive understanding of how to communicate key information about the content. The presentation is successful and in order.	The presentation and display show a mostly successful effort to share the importance of the content.	The presentation and display are traditional, direct and on topic.
Presence	The speaker maintained eye contact, had good posture, and was professional as they shared their presentation. The display of materials enhanced the presentation.	The speaker mostly maintained eye contact, good posture and was pleasant as they shared their presentation. The display of materials complements the presentation.	The speaker was inconsistent with eye contact, posture and demeanor as they shared their presentation. The speaker could focus more on their presence. The display was relevant to the presentation.
Q&A	Contestant responses showed consistent thoughtfulness and professional caliber insights about their presentation. They showed professional-level depth of knowledge and understanding	Contestant responses showed thoughtfulness and mostly successful professionalism. The contestant showed some knowledge and understanding of the education materials chosen.	The contestant's response showed different levels of quality from answer to answer.

Length

Points Available	5	3	1
Length	Between 4 - 5 minutes	At least 3 minutes, but less than 4 minutes	Was less than 3 minutes or had to be stopped at 5 minutes.



TEACHER CREATED MATERIALS CONTEST

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

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.

PRE-SCORED COMPONENTS

Summary Sheet Guideline Adherence

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Score
Details and word count	15-11	10-6	5-1	
Target Audience & Size of Group	15-11	10-6	5-1	
Instructional Objectives	15-11	10-6	5-1	
How-To-Use Details	15-11	10-6	5-1	

PRE-SCORE _____/60

COMPONENTS SCORED ON-SITE

Display Guideline Adherence

	Adheres	Does Not Adhere	Score
Title of Activity	5	0	
Display Size	5	0	

Creativity

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Score
Overall Creativity	10-7	6-4	3-1	
Originality of Ideas	10-7	6-4	3-1	

Design of Project

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Score
Elements of Design	10-7	6-4	3-1	
Practicality	10-7	6-4	3-1	
Effectiveness of Instruction	10-7	6-4	3-1	
Interactive	10-7	6-4	3-1	

Presentation

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Score
Depth	10-7	6-4	3-1	
Structure	10-7	6-4	3-1	
Presence	10-7	6-4	3-1	
Q&A	10-7	6-4	3-1	

Length

	4-5 minutes	3 - <4 minutes	Less than 3 minutes or over had to be stopped at 5 minutes	Score
Length	5	3	1	

ON-SITE SCORE_____/115

TOTAL SCORE_____/175

FEEDBACK FOR STUDENTS: Write two or more sentences.