# 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 the student competing.***

## Students intending 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 paid Active-level student members of Educators Rising by **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 national team competitions, schools are permitted to replace up to fifty percent of the original team members who qualified at the state-level. Substitutions are not permitted in Individual or Dual competitions or contests. **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.
    - 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

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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 indicates 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 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 2026-2027 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.
    - **Only one application can be submitted for team competitions** which lists all team members in all places indicated on the application form.
    - Each competition guideline will identify the 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 submitted in advance must be uploaded to YouTube and be linked to the application form. Videos will not be accepted by mail. All videos and presentations must be brought to the conference on a USB drive and files must be accessible without internet access. If students plan to use their own devices for presentation, students must be able to connect their device via HDMI to an external projector without assistance.
- Laptops and projectors will be provided. Students should bring their own pointing device if needed. Except when explicitly specified, the Internet may not be used during a competition presentation at the Educators Rising National Conference.

### Conference Registration, Attendance, and Participation in Events

- **All competitors must attend the Educators Rising National Conference. 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.
- Final scores will be based on a scaled score. Scaled scores are calculated using several 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. We employ a well-established mathematical method to normalize scores to ensure fairness across these rooms. This method helps balance judge subjectivity and ensures all competitors have a fair shot, regardless of their assigned room.

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- In each competitive event, each competitor gets an average score from the judges which 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. The final scores used for ranking are the normalized scores (also known as scaled scores).
- Perfect scores will be excluded from the normalization process when scoring is normalized. 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 97-100
  - Red-Scores 93-96
  - White-Scores 90-92

## Inquiry Process

- The student scores will be released directly to the participating student(s) after the conference. 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. They must 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 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, skirts, and skirts that are split at or below the knee are acceptable. The length of the dress and skirt should be comfortable for sitting in public. Mini skirts, skorts, sundresses, 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 Coverings**
  Hats are not appropriate inside the building. Head covers required for religious purposes or to honor cultural traditions are allowed.

## Citations, References, and Copyrighted Material

- In competition submissions, all ideas, text, images, and sound from other sources used for the competition must be cited.
- 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 they 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

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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 AI in the development and delivery of their competition. Students 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.
- Student Privacy and Protection Requirements: Submitters are responsible for ensuring that all competition materials comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and all applicable local district policies regarding student privacy and data protection. Any submission containing identifiable student information—including, but not limited to, names, faces in the video, voice recordings, voices, or student work samples—must have appropriate documented consent from parents/guardians and/or students, as required by applicable laws and district policies. If permission has not been granted, faces should be blurred or only the back of the students should be visible. By submitting materials, the submitter certifies that all necessary permissions have been obtained and maintained.

# 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, 2027, 8:00 A.M.** EASTERN TIME
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COMPETITION APPLICATIONS: **APRIL 1, 2027, 5:00 P.M.** EASTERN TIME
DEADLINE FOR COMPETITORS TO REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE: **APRIL 1, 2027, 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 for the Educators Rising National Conference.** 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.

# EDUCATORS RISING MOMENT COMPETITION

**COMPETITION TYPE:** Individual — Open to spectators
**ELIGIBILITY LEVELS:** High School Junior Varsity, High School Varsity, Collegiate
**EDUCATORS RISING STANDARDS:**

- Standard I: Understanding the Profession
- Standard VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice

## Contest Purpose

The purpose of the Educators Rising Moment Competition is to provide students at the Educators Rising National Conference opportunities to articulate why they aim to pursue a career in education. Students participating in this competition will prepare and deliver a speech of three to four minutes when spoken aloud. Competitors will present their speeches before on-site judges and spectators. Because spectators may enter or exit the presentation space at any time, competitors should be prepared to maintain focus and continue their presentation despite potential distractions.

## Competition Guidelines

A. The speech must be about the speaker's personal experience that illustrates the power of being an educator. Being specific — as opposed to depending on clichés or broad statements — in sharing your story is very important.

B. Speech should be original, creative and capture the audience's attention.

C. The speech must be uploaded at the time of application.

D. Each presentation is to be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of four minutes. Competitors will respond to judges' follow-up questions. The entire presentation and question session will last a total of no more than 10 minutes.

E. One judge will also serve as a timekeeper. Speakers will receive a visual, non-verbal indication that there is one-minute remaining when they reach the three-minute mark of their speeches. Speakers will be stopped at four minutes.

F. Speakers may use up to five 4x6-inch index cards while presenting. Only one side of each card may be used.

G. A microphone will be available for the presentation.

# EDUCATORS RISING MOMENT COMPETITION

LEVEL (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.

## COMPONENTS SCORED ON-SITE

### Guideline Adherence

| Points Available | 5 | 0 |
|---|---|---|
| Uploaded Speech | A copy of the speech was uploaded at the time of application. | The speech was not uploaded at the time of application. |
| Use of notecards | Used five or fewer 4x6-inch index cards during the presentation, with notes written on one side only. | Used more than five 4x6-inch index cards, wrote notes on both sides of the cards, or used notes that did not meet the required size specifications. |

### Presentation Content

| Points Available | 25-21<br>Accomplished | 20-16<br>Commendable | 15-11<br>Developing | 10-1<br>Needs Improvement |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personal Story & Reflection | The speaker presents a compelling personal experience and demonstrates deep reflection on its significance. Reflection reveals maturity, self-awareness, and meaningful personal growth. The audience gains a strong understanding of how the experience shaped the speaker's thinking and aspirations. | The speaker shares a meaningful experience and provides thoughtful reflection on its impact.<br>Reflection supports the overall message and demonstrates clear personal growth. | The speaker shares a personal experience but reflection lacks depth, detail, or development. Additional analysis of the experience would strengthen the message. | The personal experience lacks sufficient detail, reflection, or connection to the overall message. The audience has difficulty understanding the significance of the experience. |
| Understanding of Educators & Impact | The speaker demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the influence educators have on individuals, schools, communities, and society. Specific examples and insights effectively illustrate the power and importance of the teaching profession. | The speaker demonstrates a clear understanding of the impact educators have on students and learning. Examples support the message and reinforce the importance of education. | The speaker acknowledges the role and importance of educators but provides limited insight, analysis, or supporting examples. | The connection between the experience and the impact of educators is unclear, underdeveloped, or unsupported. |

## Presentation Content (continued)

| Points Available | 25-21<br>Accomplished | 20-16<br>Commendable | 15-11<br>Developing | 10-1<br>Needs Improvement |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Future Educator Identity | The speaker clearly articulates how the experience shaped their understanding of teaching and influenced their desire to pursue a career in education. The connection between the experience and future professional goals is authentic, compelling, and purposeful. | The speaker explains how the experience contributed to their interest in education and connects it to future goals. | The speaker references an interest in education but provides limited explanation of how the experience influenced future aspirations. | Little or no connection is made between the experience and a future career in education. |

## Presentation Delivery

| Points Available | 15–13<br>Accomplished | 12–9<br>Commendable | 8-5<br>Developing | 4–1<br>Needs Improvement |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Message Development & Organization | The speech is strategically organized with a clear introduction, purposeful development of ideas, and a memorable conclusion. Ideas build upon one another to strengthen the overall message and audience impact. | The speech is organized and easy to follow. Most ideas contribute to a clear message, though transitions or sequencing could be strengthened. | The speech includes an identifiable structure but may contain lapses in organization, transitions, or message development. | The speech lacks a clear organizational structure and is difficult for the audience to follow. |
| **Points Available** | **10–9<br>Accomplished** | **8–6<br>Commendable** | **5–3<br>Developing** | **2–1<br>Needs Improvement** |
| Presence | The speaker maintains strong eye contact, confident posture, and a professional demeanor. These qualities enhance the message and engage the audience throughout the presentation. | The speaker demonstrates confidence and audience awareness. Eye contact, posture, and demeanor generally support the presentation. | The speaker demonstrates some confidence but inconsistently engages the audience. Presentation habits occasionally distract from the message. | Limited eye contact, posture, or audience engagement distracts from the effectiveness of the presentation. |
| Vocal Delivery | The speaker uses clear articulation, appropriate pacing, volume, and expression to enhance audience understanding and engagement. | The speaker's voice is clear and understandable. Pacing and expression generally support the message. | The speaker is understandable but may demonstrate inconsistent pacing, volume, or vocal expression. | Vocal delivery makes portions of the presentation difficult to understand or follow. |

## Overall Impact

| Points Available | 20–16<br>Accomplished | 15–11<br>Commendable | 10–6<br>Developing | 5–1<br>Needs Improvement |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overall Impact | The speech is memorable, authentic, and inspiring. The content and delivery work together to create a meaningful and lasting impression on the audience. | The speech communicates a meaningful message and leaves a positive impression on the audience. | The speech is understandable and on-topic but may not leave a lasting impression. | The speech lacks impact or would benefit from significant revision and practice. |

## Length

| Points Available | 5 | 3 | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Length | Presentation is between 3.5 and four minutes | Speech is between 2.5 and less than 3.5 minutes. | Presentation is shorter than 2.5 minutes or had to be stopped at four minutes |

# EDUCATORS RISING MOMENT COMPETITION

LEVEL (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.

## COMPONENTS SCORED ON-SITE

Guideline Adherence

| | Adheres | Does not adhere | Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| Uploaded Speech | 5 | 0 | |
| Use of Notecards | 5 | 0 | |

**GUIDELINE ADHERENCE_____/10**

Presentation Content

| | Accomplished | Commendable | Developing | Needs Improvement | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personal Story & Reflection | 25-21 | 20-16 | 15-11 | 10-1 | |
| Understanding of Educators & Impact | 25-21 | 20-16 | 15-11 | 10-1 | |
| Future Educator Identity | 25-21 | 20-16 | 15-11 | 10-1 | |

**PRESENTATION CONTENT_____/75**

Presentation Delivery

| | Accomplished | Commendable | Developing | Needs Improvement | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Message Development & Organization | 15-13 | 12-9 | 8-5 | 4-1 | |
| Presence | 10-9 | 8-6 | 5-3 | 2-1 | |
| Vocal Delivery | 10-9 | 8-6 | 5-3 | 2-1 | |

**PRESENTATION DELIVERY_____/35**

Overall Impact

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

**OVERALL IMPACT_____/20**

Length

| | 3.5-4 Minutes | 2.5 – less than 3.5 Minutes | Less than 2.5 Minutes or had to be stopped at 4 Minutes | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Length | 5 | 3 | 1 | |

**LENGTH _____/5**

**TOTAL SCORE_____/145**

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