



OHIO PTA REFLECTIONS

Ohio PTA Reflections Local Leader's Guide
2025-2026 | *I Belong!*


2025-2026
CALL FOR ENTRIES!

I Belong!

Explore the arts and express yourself!

Learn more and get involved!
PTA.org/Reflections

Ohio PTA

40 Northwoods Blvd, Suite A
Columbus, Ohio 43235

(614) 781-6344 | (800) 699-6628 | (614) 781-6349 Fax

office@ohiopta.org
www.ohiopta.org



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To be eligible to participate in the Reflections Program, your PTA must have sent in and paid at least one installment of dues to Ohio PTA by **NOVEMBER 30, 2025**.

**DEADLINE FOR ALL ENTRIES TO OHIO PTA
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026 BY 4:30 P.M.**

All Reflections information and forms are located on our Ohio PTA website
www.ohiopta.org

Important paperwork and instructions can be found in the following Ohio PTA Reflections resources:

OHIO PTA OFFICIAL RULES

This Packet:

Rules and forms to help you complete your local program.

- National PTA General Rules for Participation
- National PTA Required Unit Registration for Participation
- General Unit and Council Participation Rules
- Awards and Recognition
- 2025-2026 | MANDATORY FORMS
 - Official Ohio PTA Participation Form
 - Student Submission Entry Form

OHIO PTA LOCAL LEADER'S GUIDE

Additional Ohio PTA Packet:

Information to help develop/run your local program.

- Five Steps to Program Success
 - Prepare for Your Reflections Program
 - Promote Your Program
 - Coordinate the Review of Student Submissions
 - Celebrate Your Student Artists!
 - Wrap Up and Report Your Reflections Program Success

RETURN OF STUDENT ARTWORK

Ohio PTA returns Photography and Visual Arts entries to local units. Entries that earn Ohio PTA awards are returned at a later date. Check with your Regional Advisor for specific return dates. Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, and Music Composition entries will not be returned. Please ensure the original art is kept and a copy is submitted. Ohio PTA exhibits the winning entries at the annual Ohio PTA convention, PTA trainings, and at various locations May-December, if available.



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National PTA General Rules for Participation

All students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules, as well as the rules for their specific arts category. Program rules and student entry forms are provided by your state PTA. To reference all National PTA rules, visit [PTA.org/ReflectionsToolkit](https://pta.org/ReflectionsToolkit).

Students must participate in the National PTA Reflections program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing, as determined by their state PTA. It is your Local PTA Reflections Committee's responsibility to confirm that your PTA is in good standing and to determine each student's eligibility. Questions about your student's eligibility and/or your PTA's good standing should be directed to your unit President.

Basic Student Guidelines: The following additional guidelines apply to student entries.

- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- A student may develop an entry inside or outside of the school.
- A student may submit entries in more than one arts category.
- Each student entry must be accompanied by a paper MANDATORY OHIO PTA STUDENT ENTRY FORM which must be signed by the student and a parent or guardian.
- Student entries must include a title and an artist statement, which communicates the artist's inspiration for the work and how it relates to the theme. The statement must describe the content and include at least one sentence, with at least 10 words, but not exceed 100 words.
 - Accessible Arts participants may use the artist statement section to provide information about how their disability and/or support needs impacted their entry.

Students with Disabilities: Student eligibility for the Accessible Arts Category can be determined by The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that 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. Students with disabilities may participate in the National PTA Reflections program in one of two ways:

1. Enter the Accessible Arts Division to receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the Accessible Arts Division. The Accessible Arts Division is an optional division of the Reflections program, accepting students in all grades whose physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges meet guidelines set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act. National PTA will honor one special artist from across all arts categories to receive an Outstanding Interpretation Award. Up to six additional special artists will receive a National PTA Award of Excellence.
2. Enter the Grade Division most closely aligned to the student's functional abilities. Students are



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recognized and awarded prizes as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges. In this case, students follow all general rules and arts category rules but may submit their entries in the grade division most closely aligned to their cognitive or functional abilities.

Originality: Specific rules related to originality for each arts category are provided by your state PTA. National rules can be referenced at [PTA.org/ReflectionsToolkit](https://pta.org/ReflectionsToolkit). In general:

- An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work.
- Only one student may be recognized for each entry; collaboration with other students is not allowed. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student's work, but the work itself—the dance choreography, film production (i.e., screenplay, camera work and directing) or musical composition (i.e., written score and any lyrics)—must be the creative product of one student alone.
- The artwork must be inspired by the current year's theme and created expressly for the program. Artwork produced before the dissemination of the theme or used for another competition or program may not be submitted.

Use of Copyrighted Materials: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited in the literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts categories. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters, copyrighted material from the Internet, advertisements or advertising ideas, musical themes from existing copyrighted compositions, copyrighted recorded music, copyrighted photographs or stock images.

Use of copyrighted music in dance choreography and film production entries is acceptable when the title, composer and performer of any music in the submission are cited on the student entry form.

Film productions, photography and visual art may include public places, well-known products, trademarks or other copyrighted material, as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and is a smaller element of the whole.

Visual arts collages may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as portions of photos, magazine clippings, internet images and type cut out of a newspaper, as long as those pieces of copyrighted works are used to create a completely new and different work of art. A collage should be judged for its whole—not its parts—and its creativity as an original work of art.

Misuse of the above materials constitutes plagiarism—taking and using another's words, ideas or inventions as one's own.

Addressing Student Ineligibility: Occasionally, entries submitted to the Reflections program are ineligible. One reason for ineligibility is that the local PTA is not in good standing. It is very important



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that you check with your PTA president to ensure your PTA is in good standing with the state. Other common reasons for ineligibility are plagiarism and resubmission. The following recommended procedures apply to both plagiarized and resubmitted entries:

1. Scan entries to ensure that all are original and have not previously been submitted to Reflections or another art competition.
2. Alert judges to the possibility that some pieces may not be original and encourage them to communicate when one may be questionable.
3. Check questionable entries via Google or another search engine.
4. Return ineligible pieces to students, and explain why they are being returned.
5. Talk with appropriate school personnel, such as school counselors, the principal or teachers about ways to address the seriousness of copying someone else's work or resubmitting artwork with the student and his/her family.

If ineligibility is confirmed after judging, determine whether awards (including award money, pins, certificates, etc.) should be returned.

National PTA Required Unit Registration for Participation

Required PTA Unit Registration Instructions: All PTA units participating in the Reflections Program must register with National PTA between July 1—January 1.

1. *The required National PTA Reflections Registration Form can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/25-26Registration or by visiting PTA.org/Reflections.*
2. The following information is required on the registration:
 - a. First Name, Last Name, and Email Address of the Unit/Council PTA Chair
 - b. Official PTA Unit Name, PTA ID Number, City, State, and Program Level
 - i. Unit ID Number can be found at: <https://member.pta.org/Run-Your-PTA/Find-a-PTA>
 - c. For School Units: School Name, School Type/Level, School Size (student enrollment total), If a Title I School, If this is your first year participating in the Program, Estimated number of students who will participate, Arts Categories you will offer, Grade Divisions you will offer
3. The following information is optional on the registration:
 - a. Ethnicity and gender of the Unit/Council PTA Chair
 - b. Statement of motivation for supporting the Reflections Program
 - c. For School Units: Estimated number of students receiving free/reduced price meals, and Student ethnicity percentage breakdown



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General Unit and Council Participation Rules

PTAs and Students must adhere to the General Participation Rules

Eligibility of PTA Units and Councils:

- PTA's in good standing with membership dues paid to Ohio PTA by November 30, 2025 may participate. Reflection Chairs should verify if dues have been paid to Ohio PTA.

Total quantity of eligible entries for submitting Councils:

- Councils with 3-15 PTA units may submit up to 28 entries to Ohio PTA
- Councils with 16-39 PTA units may submit up to 60 entries to the Ohio PTA
- Councils with 40 or more PTA units may submit up to 76 entries to Ohio PTA

Total quantity of eligible entries for others:

- Units whose Council does not participate may submit up to 16 entries to Ohio PTA
- Non-Council Units may submit up to 16 entries to Ohio PTA
- Community PTAs may submit up to 28 entries to Ohio PTA

REQUIREMENTS:

- Every participating PTA unit and council **MUST** complete the National PTA registration form.
- Every Student must fill out the mandatory Ohio PTA Student Submission Entry Form (2025-2026), and secure it to each individual Reflections entry. **TYPED FORM IS PREFERRED.**
 - All lines must be complete and filled in with appropriate information
 - **ALL PARTICIPATING STUDENTS MUST SIGN THE MANDATORY STUDENT ENTRY FORM**
 - **A PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST ALSO SIGN THE MANDATORY STUDENT ENTRY FORM** for all children under 18 and for all children with Special Needs
 - **Council/School PTA information must be filled out entirely. The Reflections Chair should complete this section before distribution to entrants.**
- Submit the **MANDATORY OFFICIAL OHIO PTA PARTICIPATION FORM** with entries mailed or delivered to the Ohio PTA Office. Forms must be completed in their entirety or entries will not be accepted.
 - Please contact the Ohio PTA office prior mailing or delivering entries to ensure availability of receipt.
- All entries submitted via flash drive (No CDs) must be separated by both age and art category.

The Official Reflections Entry Deadline for submitting all Reflections entries and required paperwork to the Ohio PTA office is FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026 BY 4:30 P.M.

There will be no exceptions to this Official Reflections Entry Deadline



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Awards and Recognition

Ohio PTA

- Achievements of Ohio student artists participating in the Reflections Program are recognized by the Ohio PTA by issuance of the following awards: **Award of Excellence, Award of Outstanding Achievement, Award of Merit, and Honorable Mention(s).**
- Awards are given for each arts category (Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts) in each grade division (Primary, Intermediate, Middle School, High School, and Accessible Arts).
- ***Ohio PTA maintains possession of entries until the completion of the National PTA entry submission period in March. Ohio PTA returns Photography and Visual Arts entries to local units. Entries that earn Ohio PTA awards are returned at a later date. Check with your Regional Advisor for specific return dates. Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, and Music Composition entries will not be returned. Please ensure the original art is kept and a copy is submitted. Ohio PTA exhibits the winning entries at the annual Ohio PTA convention, PTA trainings, and at various locations May-December, if available.***

National PTA

- Achievements of student artists participating in the Reflections Program are recognized by the National PTA by issuance of the following awards: **Outstanding Interpretation Award, Award of Excellence, and Award of Merit.**
- Awards of Excellence and Merit are given for each arts category (Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts) in each grade division (Primary, Intermediate, Middle School, High School, and Accessible Arts).
- Award of Outstanding Interpretation is given to the student artworks that achieved the highest scores for interpretation of the Reflections theme.
- In 2025, prizes given to National PTA Reflections Winners included:
 - **Award of Merit:** Bronze Medal; Certificate of Merit; Work featured in the virtual exhibition
 - **Award of Excellence:** \$200 Young Artist Scholarship; Silver Medal; Certificate of Excellence; Work featured in the virtual exhibition
 - **Outstanding Interpretation Award:** \$800 Young Artist Scholarship; Gold Medal; Certificate of Outstanding Interpretation; Work featured in the virtual exhibition; \$200 Prize for Local PTA Unit
- National PTA does not return entries in Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, and Music Composition. Physical copies of Photography and Visual Arts entries are returned within two years.

**Ohio PTA has a moral obligation to adhere to the rules set forth by National PTA.
Failure of any persons/participants to follow the official rules set forth by
National PTA and Ohio PTA will result in disqualification.**



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Official Ohio PTA Participation Form 2025-2026 | *I Belong!*

THIS FORM AND ENTRIES DUE ON OR BEFORE: Friday, January 9, 2026

CHAIRPERSON'S INFORMATION MUST CLEAR, NEAT, LEGIBLE, AND COMPLETE

Name of PTA _____ Council Name _____

Ohio PTA Region # _____ Name of PTA Reflections Chairperson _____

Chairperson's Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Chairperson's Cell Phone _____ Chairperson's Email _____

ELIGIBLE TOTAL ENTRIES:

Councils with 3-15 units may submit up to 28 eligible entries Total number of entries submitted: _____

Councils with 16-39 units may submit up to 60 eligible entries Total number of entries submitted: _____

Councils with 40+ units may submit up to 76 eligible entries Total number of entries submitted: _____

Units with a council not participating may submit up to 16 eligible entries Total number of entries submitted: _____

Non-Council Units may submit up to 16 eligible entries Total number of entries submitted: _____

Community PTAs may submit up to 28 eligible entries Total number of entries submitted: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF PTA UNITS PARTICIPATING _____ TOTAL # OF ENTRIES SENT TO OHIO PTA _____

ELIGIBLE TOTAL ENTRIES:

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY _____ ACCESSIBLE ARTS DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY _____

FILM PRODUCTION _____ ACCESSIBLE ARTS FILM PRODUCTION _____

LITERATURE _____ ACCESSIBLE ARTS LITERATURE _____

MUSIC COMPOSITION _____ ACCESSIBLE ARTS MUSIC COMPOSITION _____

PHOTOGRAPHY _____ ACCESSIBLE ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY _____

VISUAL ARTS _____ ACCESSIBLE ARTS VISUAL ARTS _____

If submitting as a council, please list the names of all participating units.

- A copy of this entry form **must** be included in each package of entries.
- All entries and paperwork must be sent in together, preferably in one box.
- Send this form and entries to:

Ohio PTA
40 Northwoods Blvd., Suite A
Columbus, OH 43235-4718



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Student Submission Entry Form 2025-2026 | I Belong!

THIS SECTION SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL REFLECTIONS CHAIR BEFORE DISTRIBUTION TO ENTRANTS.

COUNCIL PTA NAME _____ SCHOOL PTA NAME _____

SCHOOL PTA ID _____ MEMBERSHIP DUES PAID DATE _____

INSURANCE PAID DATE _____ BYLAWS APPROVAL DATE _____

SCHOOL REFLECTIONS CHAIR: _____ REFLECTIONS CHAIR PHONE _____

REFLECTIONS CHAIR EMAIL _____

STUDENT NAME _____ CLASS _____ GRADE _____

STUDENT AGE _____ MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN 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.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

GRADE DIVISION (Select One)

- PRIMARY (Pre-K-Grade 2)
- INTERMEDIATE (Grades 3-5)
- MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8)
- HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)
- ACCESSIBLE ARTS* (All Grades)
*Division option for students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504.

ARTS CATEGORY (Select One)

- DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY →
- FILM PRODUCTION →
- LITERATURE →
- MUSIC COMPOSITION →
- PHOTOGRAPHY →
- VISUAL ARTS →

REQUIRED CATEGORY DETAILS

- Background Music (Title & Artist), and Name(s) of Performer(s) _____
- Background Music (Title & Artist), and Name(s) of Performer(s) _____
- Word Count _____
- Instrumentation, Performer Name(s), and Editing Software (if any) _____
- Dimensions, and Editing Software (if any) _____
- Dimensions, Medium, and Material _____

TITLE OF ARTWORK _____

ARTIST STATEMENT (Describe your work and how it relates to the theme. Must be 10 to 100 words in length.**)

**Students participating in the Accessible Arts Division may use the artist statement section to provide information about how their disability and/or support needs impacted their entry.

If digital technology software/tools are used in the creation process, including any generative elements (AI), entrants should use the back of this entry form to briefly describe these methods (10 to 50 words).