

Our Mission

Inspire Student Achievement Through Academic Competition

Each year, over 175 private, parochial, and home schools in grades 1 through 8 compete in academic contests across Texas. These contests motivate students to:

- find new excitement in learning,
- achieve a higher mastery level, and
- receive recognition and awards for academic excellence

Contests are designed to support basic curricula and can easily be implemented into daily studies to enrich academic skills for all students.

PSIA is the most comprehensive extracurricular academic program in the nation for grades 1-8.

Staff Support

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62 total events over multiple grades.
See back page for grade level
breakdowns

Membership & Participation

Schools with fewer than 27.5 students on average per grade are classified as "A" schools. Schools with 27.5 or more students on average per grade are classified as "AA" schools. Home schools and "A" schools may compete in either "A" or "AA" districts. Membership fees:

◦ "A" schools	\$395
◦ "AA" schools	\$495
◦ Home schools	\$ 60

Participation fees:

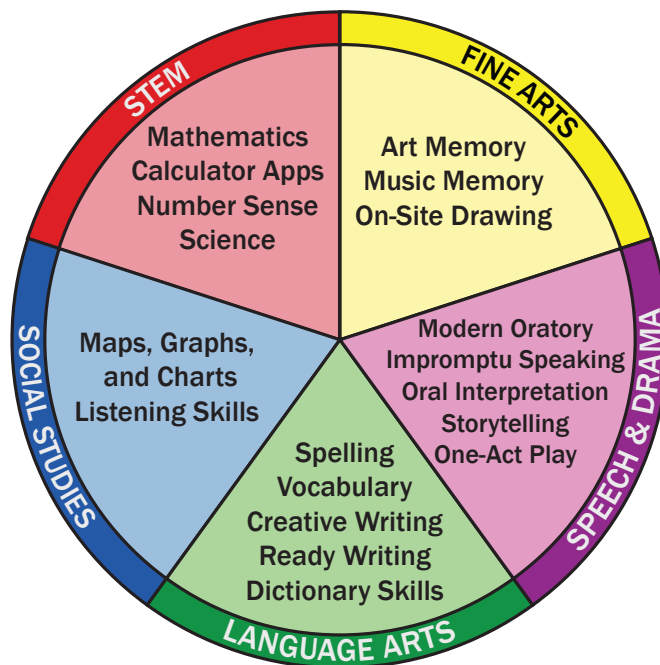
◦ Per contest (any grade)	\$ 60
◦ Full Participation cost	\$900
◦ Minimum OAP fee	\$200

District Meet fees:	\$ 12 / entry
State Meet fees:	\$ 18 / entry

Registration Deadlines:

- Incentive Deadline -- Oct 1st -- 10% Discount
- Regular Deadline -- Nov. 1st
- Late Deadline -- Dec. 15 (+ \$25)

The Contests



Competition

Qualifier: All students may participate at the campus level, as selected by school officials, teachers, and/or parents. Qualifier tests are available in November.

District: Through campus eliminations, as many as 3 students per contest (based on grade level or combined grades) may compete in one or more of the 61 contests at the District Tournament. Districts may be held between February 5th and March 6th. Districts consist of between 6 and 10 schools or the equivalent thereof.

State: First- and second-place contestants in District contests for grades 4–8 advance to the State Tournament: Class A — April 10; Class AA — April 24. Location TBD.

One-Act Play



Up to 36 schools may present a play in Area competition. With 6 Areas, the first place school will advance to the State OAP contest. Location and Dates TBD.

Services

PSIA provides the following:

- Tests for District and State contests
- Practice materials and Handbooks
- Assistance in Forming Districts
- Organization and Direction for State Tournaments
- Awards: 800+ medals at State, 13 trophies for top 3 school places in Elementary and Middle School Divisions from both Classifications, plus the Top Home School
- Training through Workshops for Campus Coordinators, District Directors, Coaches, Parents, and Judges
- Guidance through a Board of Directors and Advisory Council

Early Membership Benefits

Register by October 1st to receive these benefits:

- 10% Discount off Study Materials and Test Packets

Contests Summary

Schools may choose to participate in a Qualifier Meet prior to the District Meet. Each district determines the number of entries allowed, with a maximum of three students per contest from each school. At the District Meet, first- and second-place contestants in grades 4–8 advance to the State Meet. In grades 1–3, the top District contestants are recognized with medals at the District Meet. For complete qualification and advancement rules, please consult the *Academic Handbook*.

Art Memory (4/5 & 6-8): Students are challenged to identify the artist and the work and answer questions about the art and artists found in the Art Smart Bulletin.

Calculator Applications (6-8): This contest develops mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills to real-life problems.

Creative Writing (1 & 2): This event is designed to promote creativity and encourage writing skills at an early age. Using the captions and pictures, students have 30 minutes to create an original story based on the captions.

Dictionary Skills (4/5 & 6-8): Students use all elements of the dictionary (Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 12th edition) as they learn valuable research skills and apply reasoning to extract information.

Impromptu Speaking (7/8): Students are challenged to think quickly and communicate effectively in this contest. They organize their thoughts on a topic in 3 minutes and then speak for up to 5 minutes without notes.

Listening Skills (4/5 & 6-8): Good listening skills enhance all academic areas. Contestants take notes as they listen to prerecorded audio and then use their notes to answer 25 questions in this 6-minute contest.

Maps, Graphs, and Charts (4, 5, 6, 7, 8): Student use an atlas (preferably the Nystrom Desk Atlas, 2018 or newer) and provided maps, graphs, and charts to answer questions. Grades 6-8 have additional questions over geography, Texas history, and American history.

Mathematics (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8): In a comprehensive multiple choice, 30-minute test, students are challenged in a variety of general math questions. Grades 6-8 feature a section of special topics, chosen every two years, to enhance the curriculum.

Modern Oratory (7/8): A challenge in writing and speaking, contestants select one topic from the list and prepare a short original speech to examine the pros and cons of an issue and defend their points, incorporating a variety of skills. Contestants take a stand on only one side of the issue.

Music Memory (2/3, 4/5, & 6-8): Students identify composers and musical selections from the world's best classics and modern musical marvels. This two-part contest has students answer 20 multiple choice items and then identify composers and selections given a short audio clip.

Number Sense (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8): Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest of mental mathematics.

On-Site Drawing (6, 7, 8): Contestants have 45 minutes to produce a rendering of a still life display of 4 to 7 objects on multi-use drawing paper. Art works are judged by qualified artists and teachers.

Oral Interpretation (4, 5, 6, & 7/8): Contestants select, prepare, and read a literary selection within a 6-minute time limit with closed-book introduction. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness. Contest alternates between Poetry and Prose annually. 2027 is a Poetry year.

Ready Writing (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8): This event presents a rewarding challenge for gifted writers. Students are given a choice between two prompts. Each prompt defines the audience and provides or implies the purpose for writing.

Science (6, 7, 8): Earth, Life, and Physical Science information found in current textbooks are tested in this 30-minute, 50-question multiple choice contest.

Spelling (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7/8): As spelling words are played from prerecorded audio, students write each word. The first 75% of the contest consists of words from the official Spelling Lists; the last 25% are outside words.

Storytelling (1, 2, 3): Contestants hear a story that they then retell before an audience. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness.

Vocabulary (5, 6, & 7/8): Contestants are challenged to use their vocabulary to complete this 30-question test consisting of sentence completion, analogy, and reading comprehension questions. Great prep for college entrance exams as well as improving general vocabulary skills.



2026–2027

Academic Program Brief

