

Oklahoma Education Awards for Arts Excellence

High school juniors and seniors eligible to complete the application are those students who, during high school, have met one or more of the below criteria in their art form. If an award is received as a junior, the student is not eligible to receive the award in that art form again as a senior.

All Applicants

All students will need the following information to apply:

- Student home address (please ensure home address is up to date and accurate as award information will be mailed through the USPS)
- School district and school name
- School administrator name; school counselor name
- Recommending teacher information (mailing and email address)
- A document with answers to the application questions for easy copy/paste (see the application on February 1 for the questions)
- Local newspaper name and email and district communications contact (if applicable)
- The names of the student's [STATE level senator and house representative](#)
- Documents to upload at the end of the application:
 - Three (3) PDF or JPG letters of recommendation, including one letter from your current application subject area teacher (for example, if you are applying for a vocal music award, the letter should be from your current vocal music teacher). All letters should be related to the subject area for which you are applying.
 - If a student is applying for two areas, then they should submit the appropriate letters of recommendation with each application. For example, if a student applies for an art award and a piano award, the recommendation letters for art should refer to the student's visual art abilities.
 - Official high school transcript - PDF or JPG.
- Optional: Performing arts (music and theatre) students may choose to submit a YouTube link (at least a two-minute video clip) of a solo performance. This performance will be used to determine possible performers for the April ceremony. The performance piece that is submitted will be the piece performed at the ceremony.
- PLEASE review your application carefully before submission and email Dr. Maughan if you have any questions about the submission going through - this is especially important if your internet connection or browser has issues during submission.



Arts Discipline Criteria

Dance Applicants

Students should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Competed successfully in the jury process and received an Excellent or Superior rating at the Oklahoma High School Dance Festival
- Competed successfully in the jury process and participated in the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute Dance program
- Competed successfully in the jury process and participated in a comparable national or state program

Students must also submit a YouTube link (at least a two-minute video clip) of a solo dance performance.

Drama/Theatre Applicants

Students should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Qualified for Regionals or placed first, second, or third at the State Speech contest sponsored by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association (OSSAA)
- Selected for the All-Star Regional or All-State One-Act Play cast sponsored by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association
- Successfully completed the audition process and participated in the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute theatre program
- 6-star Member of the International Thespian Society sponsored by the Educational Theatre Association
- Competed successfully in the audition process and participated in a comparable national or state program

Instrumental Music Applicants

Students should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Selected and participated in Oklahoma Music Educators Association (OkMEA) symphonic band, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble or orchestra
- Received a superior rating in an instrumental state solo competition sponsored by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association
- Auditioned successfully and participated in the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute
- Participated in a comparable national or state music event

Piano Applicants

Students should meet at least one of the following criteria:



- Named a district winner in performance for Oklahoma Music Teachers Association auditions
- Named a state, regional, or national winner of the Music Teachers National Association auditions
- Received the Guild High School Diploma
- Participated in a comparable national or state honor in piano

Visual Art Applicants

Students should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Competed successfully in the jury process and exhibited work in Young Talent in Oklahoma
- Competed successfully in the jury process and exhibited work in the Scholastic Art
- Competed successfully in the jury process and participated in the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute
- Competed successfully in the jury process and exhibited work in a comparable national or state competition

Students must also submit 2-3 JPGs or PDFs of original work.

Vocal Music Applicants

Students should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Selected and participated in Oklahoma Music Educators Association (OkMEA) mixed or treble chorus or jazz ensemble
- Received a superior rating in a vocal state solo competition sponsored by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association
- Auditioned successfully and participated in the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute
- Participated in a comparable national or state music event

Application Payment

Students may apply for one or two areas.

- Application fee for one area: \$15.00 processing fee
- Application fee for two areas: \$30.00 processing fee

****If a student is applying for the award in two areas, two separate applications must be submitted.****

Applicants may submit a PDF of a school purchase order (PO) in the application, mail a PO, mail a check, or use PayPal. Please make checks payable to the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts



Education and include the student applicant's name in the memo line.
Checks or purchase orders must be postmarked by March 1, 2025 to:
Bob Curtis
Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education
2305 N. Warren
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

[PayPal payments may be submitted at this link.](#) Be sure to note in your payment which student(s) (first name and last name) the payment is for.

Adjudication

Applications will open on the OSDE website February 1, 2026. The application deadline is March 2, 2026. Click here to see the [insights for student scoring sheet](#) (adjudication expectations).

All applications will be adjudicated by experienced arts educators in the various arts disciplines. Adjudication should be complete by mid March and applicants will be notified of their award status the week of March 23, 2026.

PLEASE NOTE: Late additions to a submitted application will be accepted if adjudication has **not** begun. Once adjudication begins, if an application has missing information (for example, a transcript) judges will not give points for it, even if grades/classes taken are mentioned elsewhere.

The 2026 Awards Ceremony will be held on April 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Masonic Center (900 E Oklahoma Ave, Guthrie, OK 73044)

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Maughan elizabeth.maughan@sde.ok.gov





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Oklahoma State Department of Education
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