

Greetings PTA Leaders,

Welcome to the 2023-24 Reflections year as we invite our students to express the theme **“I am Hopeful Because...”** Illinois PTA proudly offers this National program to our students. We sincerely appreciate our Reflections Chairs and all the individuals who believe in this program and the impact arts expression can make on our children and youth.

The Reflections Art Program is a rewarding experience for students, parents, and volunteers. Illinois PTA’s goal is to support our leaders as they maximize the positive impact on students, while providing tools to help guide you through the program from start to finish. At the state level, we’re back to accepting physical literature, photography, and visual arts entries (for display purposes) and media files for dance, music and film.

Let’s Get Started

As you review this year’s materials, we’d like to draw your attention to the following. All required documents are available on the Illinois PTA Website under Leadership Resources-Reflections. If your PTA is registered for the 2023-2024 school year and is in good standing, you’ll have the password to be able to access the following:

- A checklist for students, parents, and PTA leaders to assist with the entry submission process and help alleviate submission issues for state judging, is provided.
- Leaders and judges should be sure to read through the category rule guidelines. Being familiar with the rules will save your students from being disqualified at state level judging for a rule violation.
- The **Special Artist Division** now has many opportunities for advancing submissions to the state level.
- **NEW! ILLINOIS PTA STUDENT ENTRY FORM:** This fillable form is designed to be user friendly for both typed and handwritten information.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Make sure all Entry Forms contain complete and accurate information from the project submitter. The top of the form contains information about your PTA that must be filled in prior to distribution. With the volume of projects received at the State level, we do not have the ability to confirm information from the level where projects originate. ***Projects arriving at the State level with incomplete or inaccurate Entry Forms may be disqualified.***
- **SIGNATURES: Both Student and Parent/Guardian signatures are required.** *National PTA continues to accept typed signatures on the Student Entry Forms.*
- **REQUIRED FILES:** You must include Advancing Projects Spreadsheet and fillable Participation Forms for each level of judging. Each of these is required to be filled out completely and accurately. **Please make sure student names and contact information are correct.** PTA specific information can be obtained from your PTA President, District or Region Director.
- Leaders responsible for submitting final entries to the State level, please email the Advancing Spreadsheet and Participation Form to reflections@illinoispta.org and include a hard copy of these documents in your package as your area’s submissions move forward.
- **Deadline for projects to be advanced from Regions to Illinois PTA is January 13, 2024.**
Local/council PTAs, districts and regions will need to determine their own number of entries per category/division accepted and deadlines for submission to allow time for judging and to meet the State Deadline. Please contact your Council PTA, District and/or Region for their date(s).
- When you’re ready, signs, banners, ribbons, and more are available at the [Illinois PTA Online Store](https://illinoispta.org/Reflections).

Thank you for volunteering to lead this enriching cultural arts program for the students in your community!

If you have any comments or questions about the Reflections Program, please feel free to contact Illinois PTA at reflections@illinoispta.org. We look forward to working with you this year.

