



UIL A+

Academics

Overview &

Rules

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BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Register your attendance.

Complete this form for each session you attend.

Session numbers
are in the program.

CAP
CON
2024



Rosters



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Registration link,
presentations and handouts
are available on the website.

*Remember to register your
attendance for each session.*

CAP
CON
2024



Handouts & More



Nice to
meet
you...

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features four envelopes of different colors: white, green, pink, and blue. They are arranged in a staggered, overlapping fashion against a background split into light blue (top) and orange (bottom) sections.

A+ Academics Contact Info

lparker@uiltexas.org

aplus@uiltexas.org

512-232-4923

A+ Updates

Music Memory

- This list is updated each school year and is currently posted on the A+ Music Memory page.
- Music Memory will be offered at the invitational and district level.

Modern Oratory

- These five topics are updated each year and are posted on the A+ Modern Oratory page.

Ready Writing

- The evaluation sheet and Instructions for Judges document is updated.

Science

- The answer sheet is updated.

Social Studies

- The outlines for this event are updated each year and are posted on the A+ Social Studies page.

Spelling

- The spelling list is updated each year and is posted on the A+ Spelling page.

Theatrical Design Pilot

- The 2024-25 school year is the first year of a Theatrical Design pilot!

How UIL A+ Academics Works



MEMBERSHIP



A+
DISTRICTS



AVAILABLE
EVENTS



CALENDAR

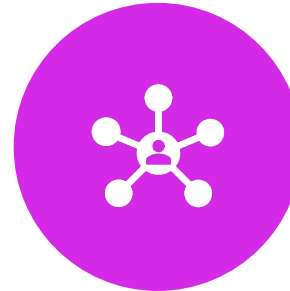


STUDY
MATERIALS

UIL Membership



Most campuses have membership payment covered under a high school in their district



If not, contact me, and I will get you in touch with someone who can assist with membership payment.



Member campuses can register for A+ Academics and have until mid-November.



If your campus is new, email aplus@uiltexas.org with school and ISD name.

Districts

The district alignments are binding for high schools only - elementary and middle school/junior high campuses are not assigned to specific district.

To create an A+ district, a minimum of 3 campuses is required.

Many schools in larger districts follow their high school alignment, but they are not required to do so.

Available Events: 20 Events, 2nd through 8th grade

Calculator Applications, Chess Puzzle, Dictionary Skills, Math, Number Sense, Science, Social Studies, Listening Skills, Maps/Graphs/Charts, Spelling

Creative Writing, Editorial Writing, Ready Writing

Art, Music Memory

One-Act Play

Storytelling, Impromptu Speaking, Oral Reading, Modern Oratory

** The Legislative Council has authorized the UIL to begin drafting language to pilot a middle school Theatrical Design event, whose pilot would start this upcoming school year.

Direct Relationships- events that begin in A+ and continue through high school:

Calculator Applications- begins in grade 6
Editorial Writing- begins in grade 6
Mathematics- begins in grade 6
Number Sense- begins in grade 4
One-Act Play- begins in grade 6
Ready Writing- begins in grade 3
Science- begins in grade 6
Social Studies- begins in grade 5
Spelling- begins in grade 3

Indirect Relationships- events that continue in an indirect way through high school:

Creative Writing
Impromptu Speaking
Listening
Maps, Graphs, Charts
Modern Oratory
Oral Reading

A+ events that have merit on their own:

Art
Chess Puzzle
Dictionary Skills
Music Memory

A+ Academics and High School Academics Alignment

Subject Area	UIL A+ Events	UIL High School Events
Language Arts	Ready Writing	Ready Writing
	Editorial Writing	Editorial Writing, Feature Writing, Headline Writing, News Writing
	Spelling	Spelling and Vocabulary
	Creative Writing Dictionary Skills Listening Skills	Literary Criticism Essay Competitions
Math & Science	Calculator Applications	Calculator Applications
	Mathematics	Mathematics
	Number Sense	Number Sense
	Science	Science
		Computer Science Robotics
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
	Maps, Graphs, and Charts	Current Issues & Events
Fine Arts	One-Act Play	One-Act Play
	Art	Theatrical Design
	Music Memory	Film
Public Speaking/Speech	Impromptu Speaking Modern Oratory	Informative Speaking Persuasive Speaking
	Oral Reading	Prose Poetry
	Storytelling	CX Debate Lincoln-Douglas Debate Congress
Critical Thinking Business	Chess Puzzle	Accounting Computer Applications

A+ Academics and High School Academics Alignment

Available Events: 20 Events, 2nd through 8th grade

These events span the curriculum - they are designed to complement and expand upon what students learn in the classroom, both through learning specific subject knowledge, and through learning skills that are valuable in many disciplines.

What are some differences between A+ Academics and High School Academics?

	A+	High School
Organization	* Organized at the local level	* Organized into regions, districts, and conferences by the UIL
Advancement	* <i>Invitational</i> - District	* <i>Invitational</i> - District-Region- State
Events	* Section 1408: (g) OPTIONAL CONTESTS - Speech, Additional grade levels, and pilot other contests (ex: Spanish Oral Reading); These events do not count towards sweepstakes points.	* Do not have ability to add grade levels and/or events at district/regional/state level

Calendar

[HTTPS://WWW.UILTEXAS.ORG/
APLUS/CALENDAR](https://www.uilTEXAS.org/APLUS/CALENDAR)

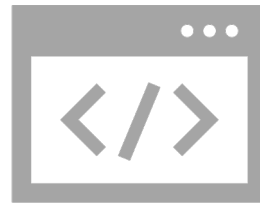
2024-2025 A+ CALENDAR

Date	Event
Beginning late May	Register online to participate . Each participating campus must register with the state office each school year.
Late Aug/Early Sept	Hold district organizational meeting for Fall/Winter (Dec. 2 - Jan. 31) district meets
Sept 18	Deadline for submitting District Meet Information and Materials Order for Fall/Winter (Dec. 2 - Jan. 31) district meets.
Nov 1	First day to hold A+ invitational meets (Nov. 1 - April 1)
Nov 22	Deadline for Participation Registration. Deadline for submitting District Meet Information and Materials Order for Spring (Feb. 1 - May 24) district meets.
Before Nov 22	Hold district organizational meeting for Spring district meets
Dec 2	First day A+ Fall/Winter (Dec. 2 - Jan. 31) district materials may be used
Jan 31	First day to return A+ Fall/Winter district contest materials to participating schools
Feb 1	First day A+ Spring (Feb. 1 - May 24) district materials may be used
April 1	First day to return A+ invitational contest materials
May 24	First day to return A+ Spring district contest materials to participating schools
May 30	Deadline to submit Academic District Participation Summary

Study Materials



Check on individual event
webpages and A+ Handbook



UIL store



Additional Resources

Tips from the pros...

The biggest piece of advice I can offer a new UIL coordinator is...

Stay organized from the start! From the day you know you are the one, maintain a calendar and share with your coaches.

The biggest piece of advice I can offer a UIL coordinator hosting a UIL A + meet is...

Enlist your coaches to help organize. Keep admin aware of all of your needs from the start of the year, with regular reminders.

The main reasons why I believe my A+ program is successful are because...

DELEGATION! I am not a super human, none of us are, so I delegate duties where I can. Start early with recruiting coaches and participants. Coaches should have regular practices.

A great way to encourage students to participate in UIL A+ is to...

advertise! Post winners for all to see. Display awards, trophies, ribbons and medals. Offer incentives like ice cream party or field trip for participants.

Tips from the pros (cont)...

The biggest piece of advice I can offer a new UIL coordinator is...

Time management. Check the district, school and your personal calendar before scheduling anything. Make sure you can manage everything.

The biggest piece of advice I can offer a UIL coordinator hosting a UIL A + meet is...

Tour the school and map out the logistics of your meet. Make sure your classrooms match the need of the contest.

The main reasons why I believe my A+ program is successful are because...

I have enough to plan and I also receive feedback from judges, parents and coordinators.

A great way to encourage students to participate in UIL A+ is to...

Advertise. Create a UIL bulletin board.

Student Eligibility Basics

Common Misperception: No Pass No Play is NOT a UIL rule – it's state law

No pass, no play

- applies to ALL grade levels
- applies to ALL school-sponsored extracurricular activities, not just UIL activities

Student Eligibility Basics

Other requirements often thought of as UIL rules that are actually state law and/or school district policy:

Limitations on practice time

Extracurricular absences



Eligibility Resources from UIL

TEA - UIL Side-by-Side
(<http://www.uiltexas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side>)

UIL Staff (Dr. Mark Cousins)

Selecting Your District Entries

UIL rules do not address this

Tryouts or other selection criteria for district contestants are determined by local policy

Benefits of a campus meet

- No limits on entries
- Allows for a fair district entry selection process plus student practice in a competition setting

Requests for Accommodation

504 accommodations do not automatically apply to an extracurricular setting

Requests are handled on a case-by-case basis

Download and complete the Request for Accommodation form well in advance of your meet - at least two weeks prior

Work with your meet director to make logistical arrangements for certain types of granted accommodations

Who Is In Your District?

UIL assigns HIGH SCHOOLS to conferences and districts

Reclassification and Realignment every two years

Elementary, middle and junior high schools are NOT assigned to conferences and districts by the state office

High school Academics has its own alignment, independent of spring Athletic activities

You MAY follow the high school Academics alignment in forming your district but are not required to do so

Schools Looking for a District

Must contact an established district in their area and request to join

The district determines its own composition and can decide whether to admit additional schools

Please accommodate whenever possible!

Searchable database of A+ districts on the UIL website

Organizing your District - Rules to Live By (and keep your sanity!)

Advance planning is key

Schedule your planning meeting early, and make sure every school is represented

UIL coordinators are key to the planning process

Take minutes and distribute after the meeting

Don't forget about ordering contest materials!

Be sure to answer the big questions while everyone is together!

District Planning Agenda

What date(s) and who will host

Which events to offer

How to structure divisions

- combined by UIL divisions, or separate by grade level?

How many events a contestant may enter

- UIL rules do not address this, except for speech contests, where the maximum is always two

District Planning Agenda

Team competition - yes or no?

Entry procedures

How to handle late entries and substitutions

Types of awards, and how many places to recognize

Overall championship

District Planning Agenda

How to handle alternates

Will you include supplemental events?

Who is responsible for judges for speaking and writing events?

- How many entries do you anticipate?

For One-Act Play, who is responsible for hiring a contest manager and judge(s), and securing a facility?

What are your costs, and how will they be shared?

Remember, a UIL District does not have the authority to:

Change

Change the number of allowed entries per division per school in a district contest



Change

Change the format of any contest

- e.g. increase time limits, decide not to count off for spelling, etc.
- Note: by rule districts are allowed to change the time limit for Ready Writing

Remember, a UIL District does not have the authority to:

01

Omit Part B of the Art contest

02

Use a “festival” format

- Contestants **MUST** be ranked and places awarded. This includes OAP.

03

Return materials prior to officially prescribed dates

Speaking Events

Sectioning is required if you have more than 8 contestants in a division

- Be sure to account for sectioning in facilities planning

Panel judging is strongly recommended for final rounds, and encouraged for all rounds when possible

- One group of judges can cover two events - one in prelims and another in finals

Tabulation - download TalkTab from the UIL website

Ballot verification - required with panel judging

Judging and Grading Procedures

Make sure that judges are trained in the event they are judging

- For speaking event judges, conduct a judge training session on contest day

Graders, including coaches who grade, should discuss grading procedures BEFORE grading begins

- In Music Memory, use the Grading Guidelines provided on the back of each answer key

Consistency is critical!

Verification Periods

All objectively scored tests **MUST** have verification periods

- Include verification in your meet schedule
- Schools that do not attend verification forfeit the ability to challenge contest results

Speech events must have ballot verification when judge panels are used

Writing events have an optional viewing period

Verification Periods

- Best practices:
 - Designate a room for verification and rotate contests through that location
 - Use a projector in the waiting area to provide notifications
 - Have copies of answer keys on hand
 - Maintain test security - do not allow tests or answer sheets to leave the verification room

One-Act Play Rules

Unlike the high school contest:

- No online enrollment or title submission is required
- Director does NOT have to be a full-time employee

However...

- Your play **MUST** be approved
 - If not on the UIL approved list, must be submitted for approval *at least 45 days* before the contest (refer to OAP Handbook for details)
- You **MUST** use an approved judge for your district contest
- Plays **MUST** be ranked

What questions do you have?

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Are there restrictions about which events students may enter?

- Meet schedule restrictions (decided locally)
- At district meets, students may enter a maximum of two speaking events (Impromptu, Modern Oratory, and Oral Reading)
- ~~○ Students are limited to one year of eligibility in each of the Science divisions (could not compete in Science I as a 7th and 8th grader)~~

Frequently Asked Questions

2) How do I purchase study material from the UIL Store?

- Create an account with the [UIL Store](#) or check out as a guest.
- If you have questions about your order, email finance@uiltexas.org, or call 512-471-5883 and ask to speak with the business office.

Frequently Asked Questions

3) How do I obtain meet material after the order deadlines?

- Email or call Lisa Parker: lparker@uiltexas.org or 512-471-5883.
- I will do everything I can to help.

Frequently Asked Questions

4) I underestimated the number of materials for my district meet.

What should I do?

- Materials are shipped in packets of 30, so it is possible you will receive the material you need without doing anything.
- If you need additional copies, the meet director may make necessary copies.
- YES- it is okay for the meet director (or designated person) to open the meet material before a meet. We encourage it to make sure you received what you ordered.

Frequently Asked Questions

5) What atlas is needed for Maps/Graphs/Charts?

The test creators use the [Nystrom Desk Atlas](#). The test writers will use copyright 2016 and 2018.

6) What dictionary is needed for Dictionary Skills?

The test creators use the [Merriam Webster's Intermediate Dictionary-](#) copyrights 2016 and 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions

7) Can a student compete up one grade level?

Yes- rules for A+ elementary and middle school competition do allow students to compete one grade level higher than the one in which they are enrolled.

Also, students must represent the campus they attend. So, a 6th grade student on an elementary campus could not compete in a 7th grade event on a different campus.

Frequently Asked Questions

8) Who can coach a UIL A+ event?

UIL rules do not limit who can serve as coaches of academic events (except high school OAP)

Coaches can be teachers but do not have to be

- Can be aides or other staff, or even parents or others from your community

Your school district policy determines who can coach an A+ event and what procedures are required. Stipends are also local decisions

Frequently Asked Questions

9) Are there limits to the awards a student may receive?

The awards rules refer to awards given by a school to its own students in recognition of participation in UIL activities

- This does NOT refer to awards received in competition (medals, trophies, etc.)

No awards rule for K-6 - local policy only

For grades 7-8, \$10 per year limit

UIL A+ Handbook

A digital copy of the A+ Handbook will be emailed to registered UIL A+ coordinators in August.

All parts of the A+ Handbook carry the same weight.

Art grade level divisions= 4-6 and 7/8

2018-2019 is the second year of a two-year cycle. Prints and the Art Smart Bulletin are the same as last school year.

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Art

The art contest involves the study of 40 paintings from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and from Texas art galleries and museums. Students learn to recognize and identify various works of art and the artists who created them. As part of their study, they will demonstrate a basic understanding of art history and interpret ideas and moods in original art works.

Note: The contest is an individual competition. Districts may elect to include team competition as well.

Section 1410:ART

THE CONTEST

- (1) **Summary.** This contest involves the study of paintings from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and paintings from selected Texas museums. The Art Smart Bulletin, is the source for test material of history and art elements relative to the art selections. As part of their study, students will demonstrate an understanding of art history and interpret ideas and moods in original artworks while making informed judgments about the artwork.
- (2) **Contest Format.** Part A requires contestants to identify the artist's name, as it appears on the official list, and the title of 15 paintings selected randomly from the official list of 40 paintings as published in the Art Smart Bulletin and on the UIL website. Part B consists of 30 questions about art elements and art history characteristic of the 40 art selections. Both Parts A and B of the contest shall be conducted. Approximately 30 minutes will be allotted for Part A and 30 minutes for Part B of the contest exclusive of time required for instructions.

REPRESENTATION

- (1) **Contestants.** Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade are eligible under Section 1400 or 1405 may enter this contest.
- (2) **Divisions.** Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.
- (3) **Individual Competition.** For each division, each school may enter as many as five contestants in the district meet.

- (4) **Team Competition.** If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of all contestants in each division from a school, divided by the number of contestants from that school, shall constitute the school's team score. A team shall have at least three contestants compete to participate in team competition.

CONTEST ADMINISTRATION

- (1) **Personnel.** All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students, with the exception of the person choosing the selections to be used in Part A of the contest. This person shall not be the coach of any student in the competition.
- (2) **Verification Period.** Contestants and coaches shall be given a period not to exceed 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Unofficial results should be posted. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.
- (3) **Official Results.** After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (4) **Points and Ties.** Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (j). Tied individuals or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which a tie exists. Should there be a tie for first place, there will be no second place. Should there be a tie for second place, there will be no third place, etc.
- (5) **Certificates.** Students who score 100% in both sections of the contest at the district competition are eligible to receive a Certificate of Achievement.
- (6) **Returning Materials.** No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Practice & Preparation

- **Prints:** Available from [Tune In](#) (offers prints in 4x6" and 11x14" sizes, a recorded audio tour of the selected prints and a video with pictures and tour; prints may not be reproduced or distributed without prior written permission of the artist; **Remember:** Prints are updated every other school year.
- **Art Smart Bulletin** (source for questions and answers on both Parts A and B of the test)
- **Practice Tests** (found in Elementary and Junior High Study Materials Booklets)

If you are the district meet director, make sure you have secured large Art prints for the meet.

Contest Administration Script

is the script

Before the contest begins, a contest official must select 15 of the possible 40 prints to use for Part A of the test. This person may not be the coach of any student in the contest. This person will shuffle the prints, place them face down, and randomly select 15. Shuffle well so that prints of various types of art are included. Devise a method to cover the title and artist's name on the prints, so this information is not visible during the contest. Create an answer key from these 15 prints by numbering them on the back in pencil or with post-it labels. Make a copy of the answer key for each grader.

- (1) **Clear Room.** Inform contestants and coaches of the time and place of the verification period. Spectators and coaches not assigned specific duties in administering the contest should be dismissed from the contest room before the contest starts.
- (2) **Distribute answer sheets for Part A and call roll (if necessary).**
- (3) **Say: "This is the UIL Art test Part A. Write your contestant number in the upper right corner of the answer sheet, and circle your correct grade level. For this contest, you may write in pen or pencil, the name of the artist, as it appears on the official list, in the first column and the title of the painting in the second column as I show you a selection of 15 prints. We will begin the test now and after we are done, I will collect your answer sheets before moving on to Part B of the test."**
- (4) **Display prints one at a time, each print for approximately one minute to one and one half minutes.**
- (5) **After 15 prints have been displayed, collect answer sheets for Part A and put the prints away so that students may not see them anymore.**
- (6) **Say: "Now, I will collect your answer sheets for Part A."**
- (7) **Collect all Part A answer sheets and put away all prints before continuing with Part B.**
- (8) **Say: "Next, I will pass out answer sheets for Part B. After you receive your answer sheet, write your contestant number in the upper right hand corner of the answer sheet and circle your correct grade level."**
- (9) **Say: "Now, I will pass out the test for Part B. Do not open the test until I instruct you to do so."**
- (10) **Distribute tests for Part B.**
- (11) **Say: "Now I will read the instructions printed on your test cover. You may mark on your test booklet; however, all answers should be recorded on your answer sheet. After 30 minutes, I will give you the stop signal."**
- (12) **Then, Say: "You may now open your test booklet."**
- (13) **Allow students 30 minutes to take the test.**
- (14) **When the test period of 30 minutes has ended, Say: "Please put your pen or pencil down and stop taking the test. I will now collect your answer sheet, and then I will collect your test booklet."**

*The contest official may ad lib as necessary while conducting the contest.

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What questions do you have?

Lisa Parker, lparker@uiltexas.org