



## California State PTA National PTA Reflections® Program Student Entry Process

This form can be used by students entering a Local PTA Reflections program or for student winners to gather necessary information for completing the official Online Student Entry Process to advance to the next round in the National PTA Reflections Competition.

### Grade Level (Check one):

- ☐ Primary (Preschool – Grade 2)
- ☐ Intermediate (Grades 3-5)
- ☐ Middle School (Grades 6-8)
- ☐ High School (Grades 9-12)
- ☐ Special Artist (All grades)

### Arts Category (Check one):

- ☐ Dance Choreography
- ☐ Film Production
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Music Composition
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Visual Arts

### LOCAL PTA INFO

Check one: ☐ PTA ☐ PTSA

8-digit PTA ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Local

Chair name: \_\_\_\_\_

Official PTA/PTSA name: \_\_\_\_\_

PTA address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Local PTA good standing status: ☐ Membership  
dues paid date \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ ☐ Insurance paid date  
\_\_/\_\_/\_\_ ☐ Bylaws approval date \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

### STUDENT INFORMATION

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_

Student First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Artwork Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Artist Statement (At least 1 sentence; maximum 100 words):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I grant to National PTA an irrevocable, unlimited license to display, copy, sell, sublicense, publish, and create and sell derivative works from, my work submitted for the Reflections Program. National PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged works. Entries may not be returned. I understand that I must participate in the Reflections Program through a PTA/PTSA in good standing. I affirm that this is my own original work. I understand that the submission of my entry into the Reflections Program constitutes acceptance of the above conditions.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
Full signature of student

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/legal guardian (necessary if child is under 18 years)

(See back for arts category questions)

**ARTS CATEGORY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS** – Answer questions for the arts category relevant to your artwork submission.

**Dance Choreography**

1. What is the title of the dance music?

2. Who is the performing artist or musical group?

3. Who is the composer?

4. Who wrote the lyrics?

**Film Production**

1. What is the brand and model of camera that you used?

2. If you used editing software, what kind did you use?

3. If you used background music, what is the title?

4. Who is the performing artist or musical group?

5. Who is the composer?

4. Who wrote the lyrics?

6. List the names of the people who appeared in this film.

**Music Composition**

1. Are there singers? If so, how many and what are their names?

2. Are there instruments? If so, what instruments?

3. If you used music composition software, what kind did you use?

**Photography**

1. What brand and model of camera did you use?

2. What kind of process did you use to prepare your photograph?

3. Dimensions of picture?

Dimensions with matting (no frames)?

**Visual Art**

Other individuals may appear in or perform a student's work, but the work itself must be the creative product of one student only. See the specific Arts Category Rules for details.

- **Use of copyrighted material is prohibited**, except for recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries.
- **Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.** *Plagiarism* is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own.
- **Students entering the National PTA Reflections® Program at local levels should follow submission rules provided by Local PTAs.** Upon completion of the local program, students whose winning entries are selected to advance to the next level of the competition will complete an online entry form.
- **Browser Recommendations:** The National PTA Reflections Web pages can be accessed using any of the following browsers: Chrome 12 and greater; Firefox 3 and greater; Safari 4 and greater; and Internet Explorer 6 and greater.
- **File Formats:** PTAs should follow their State PTA guidelines for file formats related to artwork. State PTAs can submit any of the following file formats with a maximum file size of 1GB (gigabyte) to the National PTA Reflections Program:
  - **Video:** AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, WMV, FLV
  - **Audio:** MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC, FLAC
  - **Images:** JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP
  - **Documents:** DOC, DOCX, PDF, PPT, PPTX, HTML, XHTML, TXT, RTF, ODT

**Judging:**

All national entries are judged on:

- Interpretation of the National PTA Reflections® theme – "The Magic of a Moment"
- Artistic merit
- Creative merit
- Technical merit

The National PTA Reflections® Program makes no restrictions on content or subject matter in artwork. Each PTA/PTSA determines its own judges for the program. Under no condition may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of any entry. **All decisions of judges are final.**

*For more information about National PTA's Reflections program, visit [PTA.org/Reflections](http://PTA.org/Reflections).*



**National PTA Reflections® Program**  
**General Participation Rules**  
Students must adhere to the General Participation Rules  
as well as the rules for their specific arts categories.



**Student Eligibility:** Students must participate in the National PTA Reflections® Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the state and local PTA/PTSA to determine each student's eligibility in the National PTA Reflections® Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

**Grade Divisions:** Students may enter the National PTA Reflections® Program in the appropriate division for their grade.

**Primary:** Preschool – Grade 2  
**Intermediate:** Grades 3-5

**Middle School:** Grades 6-8  
**High School:** Grades 9-12  
**Special Artist:** Ungraded

If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, National PTA suggests they be grouped in the divisions below.

**Primary:** Up to age 7  
**Intermediate:** Ages 8-10  
**Middle School:** Ages 11-13

**High School:** Ages 14+  
**Special Artist:** Ungraded

**Arts Categories:** There are six arts categories – dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography and visual arts. Students may enter the National PTA Reflections Program in one or more arts categories.

**National PTA Reflections® Theme: “The Magic of a Moment”**

The theme for the 2012 – 2013 National PTA Reflections® Program is “The Magic of a Moment.” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.

**Student Entry Process:** Students enter the National PTA Reflections® Program at local levels. Program dates, deadlines, and local procedures are determined at State and Local levels. Students are advised to check with local programs for information specific to local procedures and program deadlines.

Only students that advance to the next round will be asked to complete an online student entry form. Other student participants *may* be asked to complete a local entry form for tracking purposes.

**Program and Technical Requirements:**

- **All artwork must contain a title and all entries must include an artist statement.** The artist statement communicates what inspired the work, how it relates to the theme, and the content of the work. The statement must include at least one sentence, but may not exceed 100 words.
- **Each entry must be the original work of one student only.** An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed except in the Special Artist Division. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry.

- Step 1:** Use your State's Reflections Guide to plan and implement the program. This includes the National PTA contest rules.
- Step 2:** Visit [pta.org/reflections](http://pta.org/reflections) to submit the online Local PTA registration form. This form asks for:
- Contact information for the Local PTA Reflections Chair and your Local PTA unit, such as the PTA ID number, PTA address. A look-up link will be available on the form to help you find this information.
  - Information about your school including address, principal's name and total student enrollment. A link to [GreatSchools.net](http://GreatSchools.net) will be available on the form to help you find this information.
  - Number of students participating for each division in each arts category
  - Information for students advancing to the next round of the contest including:
    - Student name
    - Division
    - Arts category
    - Parent/guardian e-mail address (or the person who will help the family complete the online student entry form)
  - Ways your Local PTA celebrates all the Reflections Program participants as well as your winners (check all the answers that apply)

*Please note: Follow your state's Reflections Guide to determine how many winners per division in each arts category can be submitted.*

- Step 3:** Receive confirmation email with completed registration form and print it to use in Step 6.
- Step 4:** Send parent/guardians of winning students to [pta.org/reflections](http://pta.org/reflections) and request that they complete the Student Entry form. Be available to help. They will need:
- Student name
  - Gender
  - Student's Date of birth
  - A parent/guardian name, address, phone and email (preferably the one where student lives)
  - School name
  - PTA/PTSA name
  - Division and Arts Category
  - Title of work and artist statement
  - Specific questions tied to each arts category (See your State's Reflections Guide)
  - Parental/Guardianship consent to authorize submission of the student entry and use of the entry and child's name in marketing and promotional purposes
- Step 5:** Receive e-mail of completed student entry forms and print forms to use in Step 6.
- Step 6:** Follow the directions in your State's Reflections Guide for sending artwork with the printed registration and student entry forms to the next round of the contest.
- Step 7:** Celebrate your Reflections Program's success! Have fun recognizing all participants and winners, volunteers, school staff and community members.

### Still have questions?

*National PTA will host teleconferences/Webinars for Reflections Chairs throughout the Summer and Fall to help you! Contact your local Council and/or District PTA President*

***All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.***

*All students advancing to the next round of the competition must complete an Official Online Student Entry Form at [pta.org/reflections](http://pta.org/reflections) – Contact the Local PTA Reflections Chairman*

**Dance Choreography Description:**

A dance choreography entry must be an original choreographed dance recorded on a DVD. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation of the current National PTA Reflections® Program theme. The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but does not have to be. Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. Therefore, it is very important that the student show a clear relation of the dance choreography to the theme. The connection should be made evident through the use of song, props, and the dance itself.

***Traditional Dance***

The modification of the steps and the interpretation of the dance are considered when judging a traditional dance for creativity and/or originality. An explanation of the origin of the dance and/or the significance of the choreography might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a dance choreography entry that involves traditional cultural or regional dances.

**Presentation:**

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The dance choreography should directly relate to the theme.
- Submit a DVD of a performance of the dance choreography.
- Use of copyrighted music in dance choreography is **acceptable** when the ***title, composer and performer of any music in the submission are cited*** on the student entry form.

**Recommendations for Quality Recordings:**

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).
- Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.

**Format:**

The National PTA Reflections Program accepts most common file formats for entry, including any of the following:

- **Video:** AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, WMV, FLV
- **Maximum Upload File Size:** 1GB (one gigabyte)

***All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.***

*All students advancing to the next round of the competition must complete an  
Official Online Student Entry Form at [pta.org/reflections](http://pta.org/reflections) – Contact Local Reflections Chairman*

**Film Production Description:**

A film production entry must be an original work of fiction or nonfiction relating to the current Reflections Program theme. Entries may be with or without sound.

The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and camera person. If using a computer, the student must do all the work. If the student chooses to appear in the production, a camera on a tripod may be used. All storyboarding, editing, etc. must be done by the student.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

**Styles:**

**\*Animation:** Animation may be drawn, created from a collection of objects, clay, torn paper, etc., or computer-generated.

**\*Narrative:** A story told through the images created on film or computer. (This is not the same as a storyteller narrating an original story.)

**\*Documentary:** A nonfiction documentary using narration, facts, and images.

**\*Experimental:** A video that explores movement, light, and montage.

**\*Media presentations:** Computer-generated media presentations must be completely original, and the student must do all the work. Cutting and pasting from other sources is not permitted. In addition, the use of software that allows the user to build a virtual environment using prefabricated characters and elements is not permitted. Any software that is used to create an entry should be used only to enhance and present the work of the student, not to provide the primary design.

**\*PowerPoint presentations will not be accepted.** Students must adhere to copyright laws. Software should be used only to enhance and present the work of the student. Due to the fact that most graphic elements of PowerPoint presentations are copyrighted clip art, use of this program is prohibited.

**Presentation:**

Entries may not exceed five minutes.

The film should directly relate to the theme.

Submit a DVD of a performance of the film.

The student submitting the entry is not required to appear in the film.

**Use of Other Copyrighted Material:**

Films may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.

**Any background music** used in a Film entry must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form, by indicating **the title of the music, its composer and its performer(s)**. If the entry's connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.

**Recommendations for Quality Recordings:**

Use a tripod to hold the camera still.

Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.

Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).

Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.

**Format:**

The National PTA Reflections Program accepts most common file formats for entry, including any of the following:

**Video:** AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, WMV, FLV

**Maximum Upload File Size:** 1GB (one gigabyte)

***All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.***

*All students advancing to the next round of the competition must complete an  
Official Online Student Entry Form at [pta.org/reflections](http://pta.org/reflections) – Contact Local Reflections Chairman*

**Literature Description:**

Literature entries may be a work of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry, and drama are all accepted. The entry must relate to the current National PTA Reflections® Program theme. Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

**Presentation:**

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed.
- Illustrated entries, including “books,” with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
- Collections of poems or short stories are not accepted.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

**Dictation and Typing:**

- Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- Students in pre-school, kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may print or type exact words as spoken by the student.
- Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work.

**Translation:**

- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own language.  
**An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry.**
- Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work.

**Format**

At the local level, an electronic version of literary entry may or may not be required, as determined by each local and State PTA. Please check local and state rules and guidelines for these requirements. Students whose literature entries are selected to move past the local level of the National PTA Reflections® competition will complete an Online Student Entry process that will include uploading an electronic version of their literary entry.

- Acceptable file formats for typed literature documents: DOC, DOCX, PDF, PPT, PPTX
- Acceptable file format for hand written literature documents: PDF
- Maximum Upload File Size: 1GB (one gigabyte)



***All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.***

***All students advancing to the next round of the competition must complete an  
Official Online Student Entry Form at [pta.org/reflections](http://pta.org/reflections) – Contact Local Reflections Chairman***

**Music Composition Description:**

A music composition entry may be for voice, instruments, or a combination of voice and instruments. Lyrics may or may not be included in vocal compositions. The composition is not to exceed five minutes. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The use of composition software is permitted. The recording submitted may capture performers in real-time or may make use of a sound library generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student participant. The entry may not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files, or use algorithmic composition software.

Use of notation software for the purpose of creating scores and printed parts is permitted. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance.

Music Composition entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material. Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

**Presentation:**

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The music composition should directly relate to the theme.
- Submit a CD of a performance of the composition.
- The composer is not required to be the performer (or one of the) performer(s).
- A student's composed work may be performed by a group or may make use of a sound library generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student participant.

**Recommendations for Quality Recordings:**

- Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument or speakers.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).
- Record a short test and listen to it. If needed, improve recording quality by changing the record volume or microphone location.
- Make sure the music is audible on the recording.
- Return to the beginning of the CD and record two seconds of silence; then start performing your composition. Finish with another two seconds of silence.

**Format**

- The recorded performance should be saved as a file on a CD, not as a CD/DVD movie. Accepted files include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC, FLAC.
- Whether a student must submit musical notation is determined by his or her grade division:
  - **Primary and Intermediate:** No notation is required. Iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is "made-up" notation.
  - **Middle and Senior:** Notation, either traditional or tablature, is required.
- **Score:** Pages should be numbered and no larger than 8.5 inches by 11 inches. Do not mount or bind the scores.

***All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.***

*All students advancing to the next round of the competition must complete an  
Official Online Student Entry Form at [pta.org/reflections](http://pta.org/reflections) – Contact Local Reflections Chairman*

**Photography Description:**

A photography entry must be an original black-and-white or color image produced by a photographic process. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The entry may incorporate such techniques as photomontage, multiple exposure, negative sandwiches, and photograms. Images may be manipulated conventionally or digitally. Images should demonstrate the student's proper use of photographic techniques such as depth of field and exposure. The images may be created using various lenses, filters, and light sources. Photographs with added graphics over the image, including lettering, are not acceptable.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

**Presentation:**

- A single print or collage may not exceed 11 inches by 14 inches, including matting.
- Mount all prints on a cardboard mat, poster board, or some other sturdy material.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Framed entries, original film (negatives or transparencies), and multidimensional pieces are **not accepted**.

**Use of Copyrighted Material:**

Use of copyrighted material, including copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material, is not acceptable in any Photography submission, with the following exceptions:

- Photographs may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.

**Format:**

The National PTA Reflections Program accepts most common file formats for entry, including any of the following: JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP. Maximum Upload File Size: 1GB (one gigabyte).

***All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.***

*All students advancing to the next round of the competition must complete an Official Online Student Entry Form at [pta.org/reflections](http://pta.org/reflections) – Contact Local PTA Reflections Chairman*

**Visual Arts Description:**

A visual arts entry must be an original print, drawing, painting, collage, photographic collage, metal etching or punch work, fiber work, or computer-generated artwork that relates to the current Reflections Program theme.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

**Presentation:**

- All art must be flat and may not be more than 3/8 inch thick. This includes all two-dimensional materials and images, including small, flat items (such as string, fabric, and screening) that have maximum surface contact with the face of the image. Nothing three-dimensional (noodles, beans, beads, boxes, etc.) may extend off the surface of a work.
- No art may exceed 24 inches by 30 inches, including a mat.
- Entries may be submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, hot or cold pressboard, or canvas (not to exceed 3/8-inch thickness).
- Mount all paper or canvas entries on sturdy cardboard mats, but not in wood, metal, plastic, or glass frames.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Lamination is discouraged because it can permanently damage the surface of the artwork.

**Works Not Accepted:**

- Sculpture, ceramics, and other three-dimensional artwork
- Stained glass and jewelry, regardless of thickness
- Reproductions or enlargements of other artwork

**Use of Copyrighted Material:**

Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material, is not acceptable in any Visual Arts submission, with the following exceptions:

- Visual art work may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.
- Visual arts collages may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as photographs, magazine clippings, Internet images, and type cut out of a newspaper, as long as those portions of copyrighted works are used to create a completely new and different work of art. A collage should be judged for its whole, not by its parts, and whether the resulting work stands as a creative, original work of art on its own.

**Format:**

Submissions that win at local levels will be forwarded to the next level of judging. Final judging of winning entries occurs at the national level where all entries are received in an electronic format. Acceptable formats include: JPEG, PNG, BMP.

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*The Special Artist Division of the National PTA Reflections® Program is new this year.*

### **Student Eligibility:**

The National PTA Special Artist Division is an option for students with a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Generally, rules and guidelines within the Special Artists Division are intended to ensure accessibility to the National PTA Reflections Program and are modeled after the guidelines outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### **Who qualifies as a disabled individual under the law?**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 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 an impairment.

### **Student Entry Process:**

Students who identify as having a disability have two ways to enter the National PTA Reflections Program.

- **Option 1. Enter in Traditional Grade Divisions:** Qualifying students follow all arts category rules, and may not receive assistance other than that which is allowed for all children, but do receive accommodation to submit Reflections entries in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. They are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges.
  - **Grade Divisions:** Regardless of age, students with special needs may enter the National PTA Reflections® Program in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. The divisions are as follows:
    - **Primary:** preschool – grade 2
    - **Intermediate:** grades 3 – 5
    - **Middle School:** grades 6 – 8
    - **High School:** grades 9 – 12

- **Option 2. Enter in Special Artist Division:** Qualifying students entering this non-graded division create their own artwork, but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. At the national level, one Special Artist from across all arts categories will be selected to receive an Outstanding Interpretation Award. Up to five additional Special Artists may be selected to receive national Awards of Excellence.
  - **Parent or Guardian Signature:** If a student's artwork that is submitted locally is selected to move on to the next level of the National PTA Reflections Program, the student and family will complete an online student entry process that will include an electronic signature. A parent or guardian signature will be required for all students entering the program in the Special Artist Division, regardless of the student's age.
  - **Judging Procedure and Awards:** At the national level, Special Artists entries will be judged by expert judges in each arts category. The top Special Artist entry from each of the six arts categories will then be reviewed by Very Special Arts (VSA) One Special Artist from across all arts categories will be selected to receive an Outstanding Interpretation Award and will be recognized at National PTA's Annual Convention. Up to five additional Special Artists may be selected to receive national Awards of Excellence.

### **Special Artist Accommodations and Guidelines:**

Special Artists should follow the general rules and guidelines outlined in the Arts Category Student Rules specific to their submissions, modified only by accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

The accommodation, in general, should be both specific and limited to the student's disability.

- **Allowable Accommodations:** Given the diverse range of physical and mental disabilities that exist, it would be impossible to outline specific accommodations for each and every disability, but the following provides a non-exhaustive list of allowable accommodations:
  - The Special Artist Division will not be divided by age or traditional school grade level.
  - Use of adaptive technology is allowed
  - All submissions must be solely created by the Special Artist. However, a parent, teacher, or other adult may assist the Special Artist with typing, holding a camera, etc.
- **Accommodations that are Not Allowed:** Individuals providing assistance to Special Artists may not, however, in any way involve themselves in the actual artistic process by:
  - Personally selecting a title for artwork
  - Writing, editing, or interpreting a student's artist statement, story, poetry, or script
  - Choreographing a dance; composing music, or writing lyrics
  - Drawing, painting, or personally creating a visual arts submission; choosing a camera angle, etc.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- 1. If a child's disabilities are such that his or her needs are handled in a therapeutic off-site school or via home schooling, can the child participate in the National PTA Reflections Program?**

All students must participate in the National PTA Reflections® Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the state and local PTA/PTSA to determine each student's eligibility in the National PTA Reflections® Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

Children who attend therapeutic or special needs schools, as well as students who are home-schooled, often remain assigned to a local "home" school. If their assigned "home" school PTA or PTSA program participates in Reflections, students assigned to but not attending these schools may submit Reflections entries through their local "home" school PTA or PTSA Reflections program.

- 2. Can a student with special needs enter the Reflections Program as both a Special Artist and also in one of the traditional Grade Divisions?**

No. A student can enter in more than one Arts Category, but may only enter in one Grade Division.

- 3. What is VSA?**

VSA, the international organization on arts and disability, was founded more than 35 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to provide arts and education opportunities for people with disabilities and increase access to the arts for all. When founded in 1974, the organization was named the National Committee - Arts for the Handicapped. In 1985 the name changed to Very Special Arts and in 2010 it became VSA. In 2011, VSA merged with the Kennedy Center's Office on Accessibility to become the Department of VSA and Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

- 4. Do Special Artist rules and guidelines apply to students who are gifted and talented?**

No, Special Artist rules and guidelines apply only to students with physical, cognitive, and mental health disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).