



# 2026 School Art Program Rules and Regulations

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## 2026 School Art Program Updates and Reminders

- The maximum size of 2D artwork is now 16" x 20" including a mat if used (either horizontal or vertical orientation).
- All artwork and paperwork will be uploaded to the School Art Contest Portal. Judging will not be done online and will continue to be in person, but most of the "paperwork" will be submitted electronically.
- The Source Form and Source Envelope is being replaced by an Artist's Statement of Intent which will be required of all High School and Junior High entries. The Artist's Statement of Intent will be submitted online in the School Art Contest Portal.
- The artwork number labels are color coded:
  - All High School 2D, all Elementary, and all Junior High artwork will use the labels printed in black.
  - All High School 3D artwork will use the labels printed in blue.
  - All Special Needs artwork (regardless of school level) will use the labels printed in orange.
- There will be no alternates accepted during District Judging.
- All artwork is subject to visual verification through digital means. Teachers and students must be able to defend the artwork.
- Artwork may NOT be generated using any AI technology.
- Artwork is no longer required to be matted or mounted. Mats will not be provided to the schools. If paper artwork is submitted and wins an award, the School Art Committee will mat the artwork for Hayloft installation.
- Special Needs Judging is continuing this year which allows each District and Private School to bring up to 10 entries of any age group to be collectively judged in January. Up to 2 Best of Show and 2 Gold Medal will be awarded for each High School, Junior High and Elementary level.
- The School Art online photo bank is available through Zenfolio. Downloaded images are to be used as a secondary source only. High school students need to make the appropriate indication on the Artist's Statement of Intent if a photo from the photo bank is used. For access to the School Art Photo Bank, refer to the instruction sheet provided in your folder-located on the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo website.
- Photos taken at the Western Art Academy may only be used as secondary sources.
- **Reminder:** For elementary and junior high students, the student's art teacher (or school representative) and the student's legal guardian must both sign the Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form. The student's signature is not required.

**All students and teachers should review the rules and guidelines carefully.**  
**Questions may be directed to your District Coordinator.**  
**Artwork that does not comply with these rules will be disqualified and/or ineligible**  
**to advance in the School Art Program.**

## **Section 1: Overview and Definitions**

The Mission of the School Art Program: The mission of the School Art Committee is to coordinate and supervise the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ School Art Program. The program promotes an awareness of agriculture, Western Heritage and Show activities through artistic competitions for area students.

Western Art: The subject matter for all artwork entered in the School Art Program must be Western Art. Western Art is defined as art that depicts the heritage, lifestyle, and landscapes of the West, both historical and present day.

2D Program Definition: Western Art images using only permissible surfaces and mediums.

3D Program Definition: Western Art three-dimensional forms using only the mediums allowed.

Grade Level Definitions:

Elementary:	Pre-K – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade
Junior High:	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
High School:	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade

Ribbons: Ribbons are distributed based on district/school total enrollment provided at the time of registration. See below chart for details.

2026 Ribbon Scale				
Enrollment	Total Ribbons	Red	White	Blue
> 100	25	8	12	5
100 - 249	50	15	25	10
250 - 499	75	23	37	15
500- 999	100	30	50	20
1,000 - 2,499	150	45	75	30
2,500 - 3,499	200	60	100	40
3,500 - 4,999	250	75	125	50
5,000 - 7,499	350	105	175	70
7,500 - 9,999	400	120	200	80
10,000 - 14,999	450	135	225	90
15,000 - 19,999	500	150	250	100
20,000 - 29,999	550	165	275	110
30,000 - 39,999	600	180	300	120
40,000 - 59,999	650	195	325	130
60,000 - 74,999	700	210	350	140
75,000 +	750	225	375	150

## **Section 2: General Program Rules – All Entries**

**Entries that do not comply with the following rules and artwork restrictions will be disqualified and will not be judged.**

## ENTRIES

1. Artwork must be started after the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year and completed prior to the January judging date for your school/school district.
2. Only the student may work on his or her artwork under the supervision and critique of a teacher currently working in the student's school or school district.
3. Students working on a School Art entry either in school or in a home school environment may not receive instruction, guidance, or critique from anyone other than the supervising teacher (for example, a private instructor, another teacher, parent/relative, or professional advisor).
4. Artwork created under the supervision of any person, teacher, or instructor **outside the registered school district or private school is not eligible for the School Art Program competition.**

## ARTWORK RESTRICTIONS

1. Certain subjects are considered unacceptable for the School Art Program competition. Artwork depicting these subjects will be disqualified. The subjects include:
  - a. Any subject matter that, in the sole judgment of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, is highly controversial or may detract from the general character of the Show (e.g., items, symbols, or themes that may represent racism, prejudice, profanity, or are of a lewd nature).
  - b. Satanic or violent art
  - c. Nudes (adults and children) and inappropriate or suggestive clothing, or a lack thereof.
2. Certain types, styles and methods of artwork are not permitted in the School Art Program competition. Artwork of these types, styles or methods will be disqualified. These include:
  - a. Jewelry (including necklaces, pendants, rings, and belt buckles)
  - b. Photographic or digital work (to be used in the Graphic Design Contest only)
  - c. Wood burning
  - d. Artwork created on glass, mirror, plastic, metal, or any reflective material
  - e. Artwork created using cloth, fabric, felt, etc.
3. Traced images are prohibited.
4. Artwork created using AI technology is prohibited.

## DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

If a student's artwork is found to be in violation of the artwork restrictions detailed in these School Art Program Rules and Regulations either before, during or after the district judging, the artwork will be disqualified and will not be judged, and the student will not be eligible for any award, scholarships or workshop, and the artwork will not be displayed in the Hayloft Gallery. It is The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo policy that any violation of the School Art Program Rules and Regulations may result in disqualification of a student, private school, or school district from further participation in the program. Disqualification decisions made by representatives of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo are final.

## INELIGIBILITY

Artwork that is found to be in non-compliance with the artwork guidelines and not in violation of the artwork restrictions may receive a blue, red, or white ribbon as applicable. High school seniors whose artwork is determined to be ineligible are still eligible to apply for a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Scholarship.

## CLASSIFICATION

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo reserves the right to re-class any piece of art determined to be categorized incorrectly. For example, an entry using one hue of paint can be moved from painting to monochromatic.

## CONSENT

1. The student, teacher and parent/guardians understand, that as a condition of participation in the School Art Program, they are granting HLSR permission to display the student's artwork; to photograph, film, or otherwise record the student's artwork; and, to reproduce the student's artwork in whole, in part or composite. **The student and parent/guardian waive and release any and all rights to inspect/approve the final product, and they release, discharge, and hold harmless HLSR from any liability by virtue of the use of the student's artwork or images.**
2. **The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the School Art Committee are not responsible for loss, theft, or damage of artwork. Damaged artwork will not be repaired nor displayed in the Hayloft Gallery.**

## Section 3: Eligibility – High School Only

1. Students must be enrolled in the approved public school district, private school or homeschool co-op submitting the artwork from the beginning of the school year through the district judging date.
2. High School students may enter one piece of two-dimensional art (2D) **AND/OR** one piece of three-dimensional art (3D).
3. A student whose artwork was previously selected as Grand Champion may not submit 2D artwork in the same class. The student may submit artwork in a different 2D class.
4. The 2D classes are:
  - a. Colored Drawing: Colored pencil, pastels, crayon, conte, chalks.
  - b. Mixed Medium: The use of any mixture of two or more mediums, for example, watercolor with pencil or pen and ink with watercolor.
  - c. Monochromatic: The use of one hue with the addition of white to lighten and black to darken. Includes all permissible mediums stated in Section 6.
  - d. Painting: Artwork created using mediums applied by brush or palette knife in two or more hues, such as oil, watercolor, ink washes, acrylics, tempera, designer colors, gouache, inks, and dyes. Monochromatic paintings will be in the monochromatic class.
5. The 3D classes are:
  - a. Sculpture: Realistic forms created by hand only using clay (petroleum base or water-based clays, air-dried or fired in a kiln).
  - b. Functional Ceramic: Created by hand only using air-dried or fired clay, capable of holding or dispensing liquids.

## Section 4: Eligibility – Elementary & Junior High Only

1. Students must be enrolled in the approved public school district, private school or homeschool co-op submitting the artwork from the beginning of the school year through the district judging date.

2. Elementary and Junior High students may enter one piece of two-dimensional art (2D) **OR** one piece of three-dimensional art (3D).

### Section 5: General Artwork Guidelines – All Entries

**Artwork that is found to be in non-compliance with the guidelines outlined in Sections 5 –19 is not eligible to advance to the next round of judging.**

1. The subject matter for all artwork must be Western Art.
2. Due to blind judging, artwork may not have identifying information located anywhere on the artwork including the front, back, bottom, and sides. Identifying information includes student names, signatures, school names, school districts, teacher names, etc.
3. All artwork must have a title. Identifying information may not be included in the title.
4. All artwork must be dry.
5. 2D artwork may not be framed.
6. **All artwork must be the student's original composition and content and individual expression.**
  - a. **Published images MAY NOT be reproduced** in whole or part and used **as the student's primary reference source**. Published images include, but are not limited to, drawings, sketches, or photographs published electronically (eBooks, mobile apps, web sites, etc.) or in print (magazines, books, brochures, etc.).
    - i. Releases to use published or copyrighted images will not be accepted.
  - b. Students MAY use published images (electronic or print) as a **secondary reference source**. Secondary reference sources should never be the main idea of the artwork and should not be directly reproduced in whole or part. They may only be used as a frame of reference for backgrounds and/or in support of the main image.
  - c. Trademarked logos, slogans and licensed characters are not permitted in part or in whole. This also applies to the title of the artwork.
  - d. Logos, slogans, or licensed characters that are strikingly similar to the originals are not permitted.

### Section 6: General 2D Artwork Guidelines – All Entries

1. The only permissible mediums and materials that may be used to create art include any type or brand of:

a. Pastels	i. Pen
b. Acrylic paint	j. Airbrush
c. Ink	k. Pencil
d. Chalk	l. Crayon
e. Watercolor	m. Dye
f. Markers	n. Conte
g. Charcoal	o. Scratchboard etching
h. Oil paint	
2. The only permissible surfaces that may be used to create art are listed below:

- a. Stretched canvas
  - b. Canvas boards
  - c. Paper
  - d. Artboards (Commercially manufactured for artistic purposes)
  - e. Masonite boards
  - f. Scratchboard
3. Unacceptable techniques include:
    - a. Second surface (any form of pasting or gluing)
    - b. Any work that is cut away (particularly the use of cardboard or on wood)
  4. **Minimum dimension:** 11" X 14" horizontal or vertical including mat if used.
  5. **Maximum dimension:** 16" X 20" horizontal or vertical including mat if used.
  6. On stretched canvas, the maximum stretcher bar depth is 1".
  7. Charcoal, pastels, and lead pencil drawings must be sprayed and fixed. Artwork that smears will be ineligible.
  8. Artwork does not have to be matted or mounted.
    - a. An entry may include a single mat if the student wishes to include one.
      - i. If matted, the mat must be affixed in a way that it can be removed without damaging the artwork.
      - ii. If matted, only use a single mat. Multiple matting is not allowed.
    - b. If matted, the mat cannot cause the piece to exceed the 16" x 20" maximum size.
  9. Wire and/or metal hanging mechanisms must not be attached to the back of the artwork surface.
  10. Laminated artwork is not allowed.
  11. Velcro dots on the back of artwork must be removed or securely and completely covered with tape.

## Section 7: General 3D Artwork Guidelines – All Entries

1. All 3D artwork must be able to withstand repeated transporting and handling.
2. The artwork must stand on its own or have a base for support.
  - a. A base is required for all artwork made from unfired clay. Do not totally cover the base with unfired clay as this makes handling difficult.
  - b. If a base is used, the artwork must be securely fastened to the base through armature or other means.
  - c. If an armature support is required for the sculpture made from unfired clay, it should not be completely covered with clay and must be securely fastened to the base. The armature support is intended to be a temporary support until the artwork is cast, therefore the artwork must be touching/integrated with the base.
  - d. Artwork must be sturdy, be able to stand alone, sitting solidly on its base or bottom, and must not have a tendency to tip over.

3. **Dimensions:** may not exceed 16 inches in height, width or depth **including** the base/easel.
4. **Weight:** may not exceed 15 pounds in total weight.
5. Fragile 3D artwork subject to damage, easily tipped over or otherwise determined to be susceptible to damage is not eligible for participation in the program. If damage occurs to any 3D artwork, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is not responsible for repairs. Damaged artwork will be ineligible.
6. If wire is used for detailing (i.e., twisted wire to form rope), it must be covered in clay.
7. 3D artwork cannot be cast.
8. No molds may be used (only hand tools may be used).
9. If air dry clay is used, it must be completely dry prior to the 3D judging event.
10. Bas-relief is acceptable, but the artwork must be presented so that all sides can be viewed (for example, on an easel or pedestal).
11. If required, all unfired clay sculptures must have a sound armature throughout the interior, securely attached to the base, creating stability.

### **Section 8: General 3D Artwork Guidelines – High School Only**

1. Permissible mediums include:
  - a. Petroleum base clay
  - b. Water base clay

### **Section 9: General 3D Artwork Guidelines – Elementary & Junior High Only**

1. Permissible mediums and materials:

a. Wire	e. Water base clay
b. Plaster	f. Wood
c. Papier-mâché	g. Stone
d. Petroleum base clay	

### **Section 10: 2D & 3D Artist's Statement of Intent – High School and Junior High Only**

1. **All artwork must be the student's original composition, content, and individual expression.**
2. High School and Junior High students are required to submit an Artist's Statement of Intent outlining their inspiration and reference materials.



- a. If artwork is a copy of a photograph (primary reference source), the photograph(s) must be taken by the student, a family member, a fellow student, or by a teacher. Other photographs may be used as long as the image does not constitute the main subject of the artwork.
- b. If a still life is set up in the classroom, a photograph from the student's perspective must be provided original ideas from the student's imagination should be **supported by several developmental sketches** that show the progression of ideas.
- c. Visual references obtained from students who participated in the Western Art Academy **may be used only as a secondary source**.
- d. For artwork in the Mixed Medium class, it is required to designate in the Artist's Statement of Intent which mediums were used along with a brief description of where the mediums were applied in the artwork.
- e. Students must be able to provide the actual sources to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo if requested.
- f. Students and teachers must be able to defend the artwork if requested.
- g. Digital image checks will be conducted.

## Section 11: Judging – All Entries

The following criteria will be considered when artwork is judged. Originality, creativity, and composition will be heavily weighted along with the student's ability to apply technical skill and artistic excellence.

1. **Originality:** Is the concept or idea original? Is it the student's own work and/or does the work show interesting composition with multiple sources?
2. **Marketability:** Does the piece of art appeal to a wide-ranging audience? Is it a piece of art that someone will want to hang for their enjoyment? Does the piece of art have a "wow factor"?
3. **Creativity:** Does the piece of art show the student's imagination? Is the subject matter unique? Is the interpretation innovative?
4. **Skill:** Skill is assessed based on the age of the artist.
5. **Excellence in drawing (2D only):** What extent of accuracy has the student achieved? How difficult is the chosen media? How well does the student draw, use color, hues, shading and texture?

## Section 12: Online Application Process – Public School Districts

1. All artwork entries will be uploaded to the School Art Contest Portal.
2. 3D online applications will be due at 5 p.m. on December 19, 2025.
3. 2D online applications will be due at 5 p.m. on January 14, 2026.
4. Judging of the following occurs online:
  - a. Preliminary Quick Draw, Preliminary High School 3D and the Graphic Design Poster Contest.
  - b. 2D District show judging will not be conducted online.
5. The following will be required when submitting entries online:
  - a. Contact information – student name, age, grade, school district, name of school, student email address, student phone number, parent email address, parent phone number, teacher name, teacher email address, and teacher phone number.
  - b. Artwork information – artwork number, artwork title, artwork size, and if high school, the artwork class.
  - c. Completed and signed Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement.

- d. High School and Junior High only – completed Artist’s Statement of Intent form.
- e. Image of artwork – the artwork image does not have to be the final artwork product, but it must be a good representation of the final artwork. When possible, an image of the final artwork is preferred.
6. Artwork not submitted online by the January 14, 2026 deadline will not be accepted nor judged.

### Section 13: Online Application Process – Private Schools

1. All artwork entries will be uploaded to the School Art Contest Portal.
2. High school 2D, junior high and elementary online applications will be due at 5 p.m. on January 9, 2026.
3. The following will be required when submitting entries online:
  - a. Contact information – student name, age, grade, school district, name of school, student email address, student phone number, parent email address, parent phone number, teacher name, teacher email address, and teacher phone number.
  - b. Artwork information – artwork number, artwork title, artwork size, and if high school, the artwork class.
  - c. Completed and signed Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement.
  - d. High School and Junior High only – completed Artist’s Statement of Intent form.
  - e. Image of artwork – the artwork image does not have to be the final artwork product, but it must be a good representation of the final artwork. When possible, an image of the final artwork is preferred.
4. Artwork not submitted online by the January 9, 2026 deadline will not be accepted nor judged.
5. Artwork will be preliminarily judged online by School Art judges. Final award selections will be made in person.

### Section 14: District Judging Guidelines

Artwork for district judging and private school judging will be selected and submitted by the school district or private school representative.

#### ENTRIES

1. Districts and private schools will vet all artwork and determine which pieces are eligible to be brought to NRG Center for onsite district judging.

Enrollment	Maximum 2D*	Maximum 3D*
10,000 and up	25	25
3,000 – 9,999	20	20
0 – 2,999	15	15
*District quotas will be reviewed on an annual basis.		

2. **Public school districts** may also bring up to 10 pieces of elementary art and up to 10 pieces of junior high art.
3. **Private schools** may submit the following number of pieces:
  - a. Up to 10 elementary pieces (includes both 2D and 3D)
  - b. Up to 10 junior high pieces (includes both 2D and 3D)
  - c. Up to 10 high school pieces (High school 3D pieces will be submitted online for preliminary judging)
4. Public school districts and private schools may bring up to 10 total pieces of art across all school levels, separate from the School Art Judging quota, created by students with a disability. The artwork can be 2D or 3D. The Special Needs

category applies to students with disabilities that meet the criteria per the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* as stated ...” students who are in need of special education and related services” to support their education.

6. The only artwork numbers that may be used are the ones that have been assigned for 2026. Each district and private school will be given a series of artwork numbers that will be used for both 2D and 3D.
  - a. All High School 2D, all Elementary, and all Junior High artwork must use the artwork numbers printed in black ink.
  - b. All High School 3D artwork must use the artwork numbers printed in blue ink.
  - c. All Special Needs artwork must use the artwork numbers printed in orange ink.
7. After the district judging has started, artwork may not be altered, modified, or otherwise changed by the teacher, district representative, student, or any other person. This includes, but is not limited to, altering artwork size, adding armatures or bases to 3D work, performing touch-up work on a piece of art. Any violation of this rule will result in ineligibility of the student’s artwork.

## ATTENDEES

1. The school district representative must be present at their district judging; however, they may not be in the immediate area while judging is in progress.
2. Students, parents, and outside spectators may **not** be present in the judging area.

## PREPARING ARTWORK FOR JUDGING

Judging of all artwork will be blind. Upon distribution of materials, each school representative will receive pre-printed number labels with a series of Artwork Numbers, based on the maximum number of pieces eligible for judging.

1. For 2D artwork:
  - a. Affix one pre-printed Artwork Number label to the completely filled out Artwork ID Card. Affix the card to the bottom front edge of the right-hand corner of the artwork, with the Artwork Number facing forward.
  - b. Affix one pre-printed Artwork Number label to the back of the artwork. (See Appendix D for a diagram.)
  - c. For junior high and high school entries, affix one pre-printed Artwork Number label to one-page Artist’s Statement of Intent form.
2. For 3D artwork:
  - a. Affix one Artwork Number label to the completely filled out Artwork ID Card. The Artwork ID Card must be tied/secured to 3D artwork.
  - b. Affix one pre-printed Artwork Number label to the bottom of the artwork.
  - c. Affix one pre-printed Artwork Number label to the Artist’s Statement of Intent form.

## Section 15: Awards

Artwork is eligible to receive the awards listed below. Please note that these awards are not guaranteed.

1. Public School District Elementary Level Awards:
  - a. Up to one Best of Show award
  - b. Up to one Gold Medal award

2. Public School District Junior High-Level Awards:
  - a. Up to one Best of Show award
  - b. Up to one Gold Medal award
  - c. Additional pieces of artwork may be awarded Special Merit at the sole discretion of the School Art Committee.
3. Public School District High School Level – 2D Awards:
  - a. Up to one Best of Show award
  - b. Up to two Gold Medal awards
  - c. Additional pieces of artwork may be awarded Special Merit at the sole discretion of the School Art Committee
4. Public School District and Private School High School Level – 3D Awards:
  - a. Up to twenty Best of Show awards
  - b. Up to twenty Gold Medal awards
5. Private School Show Awards:
  - a. Up to 4 Best of Show awards at each of the elementary, junior high and high school levels
  - b. Up to 4 Gold Medals awards at each of the elementary, junior high and high school levels
  - c. Additional pieces of high school and junior high level artwork may be awarded Special Merit at the sole discretion of the Show.
  - d. Finalist ribbons will be given to artwork that is considered for Best of Show, Gold Medal or Special Merit.
6. Special Needs Show Awards:
  - a. Up to 2 Best of Show awards at each of the elementary, junior high and high school levels
  - b. Up to 2 Gold Medal awards at each of the elementary, junior high and high school levels
  - c. Finalist ribbons will be given to all other artwork brought to NRG for judging.
7. For public school districts, finalist ribbons are given to both 2D and 3D artwork (including 3D artwork that is submitted for online preliminary judging) submitted to the School Art Committee for onsite judging. No other ribbons will be given to the Finalists.
8. If artwork is declared ineligible for judging, the artwork will go back to the district and be given a blue ribbon.

## **Section 16: Auction – All School Levels**

1. All artwork is eligible for auction.
2. If a student's artwork is selected for auction, the student is eligible for a cash premium. To receive payment, the student must complete a W-9 form and provide the student's Social Security Number or ITIN.
3. An original W-9 completed by the **STUDENT** must be received in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo offices by **April 1, 2026**, in order for the student to receive payment. If the student does not complete the W-9 and provide a valid Social Security Number or ITIN, the student will not receive payment, but their artwork will still be auctioned.
4. Prints or copies of artwork entered in the School Art program cannot be made or marketed by the student or the school district. However, students or school districts may feature the artwork in their portfolio or on their website but may not sell prints or digital images of the artwork.

5. Artwork selected for auction becomes the property of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. All other artwork will be returned to the artist (see Appendix C for important instructions on the return of artwork).
6. The High School 3D entries in 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> place will be paid premiums equivalent to the premiums paid to 2D auction Lots 31 and up but will not be auctioned. These pieces are called 3D Premium Winners.
7. The 3D artwork selected for auction and 3D Premium Winner artwork become the property of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. All other 3D artwork judged will be returned to the student (see Appendix C for important instructions on the return of artwork).

### **Section 17: Required Paperwork – All Entries**

1. All entries must have an Artwork ID Card affixed to the artwork. It is highly recommended that you use the blue painter's tape that is provided. The Artwork ID Card must be filled out completely.
2. All entries must have a completed Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form. The Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form will be submitted online in the School Art Contest Portal.
  - a. The Artwork Number label must be affixed in the designated area in the upper right-hand corner of each Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form.
  - b. For high school students, the student, the student's art teacher (or school representative), and the student's legal guardian (if the student is under 18 years old) must all sign the form.
  - c. For elementary and junior high students, the student's art teacher (or school representative) and the student's legal guardian must both sign the form. The student's signature is not required.

### **Section 18: Required Paperwork – Junior High and High School Only**

1. All students and teachers must complete the Artist's Statement of Intent form.
2. The Artwork Number label must be affixed in the designated area in the upper right-hand corner of each form.
3. The Artist's Statement of Intent form must be brought in with the artwork. Do not affix it to the artwork.

### **Section 19: Required Paperwork – District Representative/Private School Representative**

1. Each District Representative/Private School Representative must swear to and sign an Affidavit (see Appendix E).
2. The Affidavit must be notarized.
3. The Affidavit is due on the date and time of the assigned judging.

# Appendix A: Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement/Originality Certification Form



ONE UPON ENTRY

## RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, for being allowed entry into and participation in any and all activities, including the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program, (the "Activities") associated with Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Inc., Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Educational Fund and Corral Club, Inc., (collectively, "HLSR"), and to the fullest extent permitted by law, the student and parent/guardian signing below (hereinafter, the "undersigned"), individually and jointly, hereby release, defend, indemnify, hold harmless, exonerate and waive, jointly and severally, the RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") as of the date set forth below.

- ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS:** The undersigned recognize and understand that there are risks associated with higher participation in the Activities including, but not limited to, bodily injury or death to persons and theft, damage or destruction to property.
- RELEASE FROM LIABILITY:** The undersigned hereby RELEASE, ACQUIT AND FOREVER DISCHARGE HLSR, its subsidiaries and affiliates and its and their present and former directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers and representatives and the respective heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns (collectively, the "HLSR Parties") or individually, an "HLSR Party") from any and all claims, causes of action, suits and/or demands for personal injury, death and/or property damage, accused or to occur in the future, known or unknown, (collectively, "Claims") relating to or arising out of any negligent act in connection with higher entry into and participation in the Activities, including but not limited to the NEGLIGENCE ACTIONS OF THE HLSR PARTIES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH NEGLIGENCE WAS THE SOLE, PROXIMATE OR PRODUCING CAUSE OF THE CLAIMS. Without limiting the foregoing, the undersigned agree that the HLSR Parties shall not be liable to him/her.
- AGREEMENT TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS:** THE UNDERSIGNED AGREE TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE HLSR PARTIES from any and all claims, causes of action, suits and/or demands for personal injury, death or property damage, accused or to occur in the future, known or unknown, (collectively, "Claims"), including but not limited to Claims resulting from THE HLSR PARTIES' OWN NEGLIGENCE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH NEGLIGENCE WAS THE SOLE, PROXIMATE OR PRODUCING CAUSE OF THE CLAIMS, provided, however, that the duty of the undersigned to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the HLSR Parties shall extend only to Claims arising directly or indirectly from the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activities. As used herein, "INDEMNIFY" means to agree to assume the HLSR Parties' liability as to any and all claims, causes of action, suits, demands, settlements and/or expenses (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees) made by, through, or under the undersigned against the HLSR Parties related to the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activities.
- PHOTOGRAPHY/INTERVIEW RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT:** The undersigned GRANT PERMISSION to be PHOTOGRAPHED, VIDEOED, RECORDED and/or INTERVIEWED in connection with the Activities. The undersigned understand that any such photographs, videos, recordings and/or interviews may be used by the HLSR Parties for television, film, video, visual, graphic, printed and/or social media. The undersigned agree to RELEASE AND INDEMNIFY the HLSR Parties with respect to any Claims related to the usage of such photographs, videos, recordings and/or interviews by the HLSR Parties and/or any media.
- CONSENT TO RELEASE OF EDUCATION RECORDS:** The undersigned understands and acknowledges that entry in the School Art Program is facilitated through the participant's school of record, which may be subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1220g et seq. ("FERPA"). The undersigned hereby WAIVES the privacy rights guaranteed by that statute for the limited purposes outlined in the Agreement and CONSENTS to the participant's school of record releasing records related to the participant that are necessary to complete the participant's entry into the School Art Program, including, but not limited to: the student's name, address, email address, telephone number, age, grade level, parent name, parent telephone number, parent email address, camp/guardians of residence, teacher name, and artwork to be entered into the School Art Program contest.

As further inducement to HLSR to permit the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activities, the undersigned represent that they thoroughly and completely understand that this is a complete and final release and indemnity agreement, that they are freely and voluntarily entering into this Agreement, and that no representations, promises, or statements made by any HLSR Party, or any agent, attorney, or other representative of any HLSR Party has influenced the undersigned in causing them to sign this Agreement.

The undersigned understand that this Agreement shall be binding on their heirs, executors, successors and assigns, that this Agreement will be governed by the laws of Texas, and that jurisdiction and venue for any dispute regarding this Agreement shall lie in Harris County, Texas. If any part of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it does not affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement. The undersigned agree to the terms and conditions above and acknowledge receipt of this Agreement.

## GRANT OF RIGHTS TO SCHOOL ART

In consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, for being allowed entry into and participation in activities (the "Activities"), including the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo ("HLSR") School Art Program, the undersigned hereby grants the GRANT OF RIGHTS TO SCHOOL ART (the "Grant").

- PHOTOGRAPHY/INTERVIEW RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT:** The undersigned grants HLSR permission to display the School Art and grant HLSR permission to photograph, film, or otherwise record the School Art in connection with the HLSR. The undersigned waive and release any, partial rights the student and/or parent/guardian may have in the School Art and any privacy and/or intellectual property or other interest in the subject-matter transferred all rights in the School Art to HLSR. The undersigned release, discharge, and hold harmless HLSR from any liability by virtue of the use of the School Art or images. The undersigned further grant permission to be PHOTOGRAPHED, VIDEOED, RECORDED and/or INTERVIEWED in connection with the Activities. The undersigned understand that such photographs, videos, recordings and/or interviews may be used by the HLSR Parties and/or any media for television, film, video, visual, graphic, printed and/or social media. The undersigned agree to RELEASE AND INDEMNIFY the HLSR Parties for any Claims related to photographs, videos, recordings and/or interviews by the HLSR Parties and/or any media.
- REPRODUCTION RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT:** The undersigned understands that the School Art may be included in whole or in part or composite, displayed in character or form, included in conjunction with the student's own or a fictitious name or reproductions thereof, included in color or otherwise. The undersigned agree to waive any right to inspect and/or approve the finished product that may be used in the use to which it may be applied. The undersigned grant permission for their work without the receipt of any financial consideration or compensation with regards to the reproduction of the School Art. The undersigned release, discharge and agree to hold harmless HLSR from any liability by virtue of any planning, disclosure, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form, whether intentional or otherwise, that might occur or be produced in the taking of said pictures, or in any processing sending towards the completion of the finished product. The undersigned further waive all claims and rights, monetary or otherwise, that might arise because of any additional or further use of the above described material at this or any other future time. The undersigned acknowledge that HLSR shall retain all rights for designating the use of subject-matter Art.
- OWNERSHIP RELEASE:** If the School Art is eligible for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Auction (the "Auction"), then, in exchange for participating in the Auction, the undersigned grant HLSR complete and exclusive ownership of the School Art and all intellectual property interests associated therewith, including but not limited to all rights to copyright, publish, and/or use photographic portraits, pictures, motion pictures, and/or video reproduction in the School Art and all rights to use the School Art for art, advertising, editorial, educational trade, and/or any other lawful purpose.
- ARTIST SIGNATURE:** The undersigned understand that if the student's School Art is selected as the Grand or Reserve Grand Champion, the student is required to personally sign limited edition prints of their artwork in a quantity sufficient to meet HLSR's genuine obligations and program needs.

Initials - Exhibitor: \_\_\_\_\_

Initials - Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on Next Page)

FORM 2026 - School Art Program Release



## ORIGINALITY CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned student and parent/guardian certify that we have read, understand, abided and will continue to abide by all rules and regulations of Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Inc. and the 2026-2026 School Art Program. We further certify that the artwork is the student's original creation and is not a reproduction, in whole or in part, of another piece of art. We further certify that the artwork is the student's original artwork and was created solely and exclusively under the supervision of a teacher from an approved school district or private school enrolled in the 2026-2026 School Art Program. We further certify that the artwork was never supervised or critiqued outside the school district or private school by any person, teacher or instructor.

We understand that the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to the artwork, and that damaged artwork will not be replaced.

We understand that all artwork will be judged for auction, and if selected for auction, the artwork becomes the property of Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Inc. We certify that we understand and agree to the terms of auction put forth in the Rules.

HLSR reserves the right to disqualify any artwork found in violation of the Rules pertaining to originality and the exhibitor will forfeit all auction sale and/or premium money if the artwork is disqualified. An exhibitor whose artwork is disqualified may forfeit all rights and privileges to exhibit artwork in the future at the Show.

The undersigned represent that they thoroughly understand that this is a complete and final release and indemnity agreement, that they are voluntarily entering into this Agreement, and that no representations, promises or statements made by any HLSR Party, or any agent, attorney or other representative of any HLSR Party has influenced the undersigned in causing them to sign this agreement.

Printed Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of 18 OR OLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

## FOR PARENT/GUARDIANS OF MINORS

I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for the above-named Participant(s), consent and agree to all of the terms outlined above. I release and agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the HLSR Parties from any and all Claims (as defined above) relating to or arising out of the Activities, or any negligent act in connection with Participant(s)' entry into and participation in the Activities, including but not limited to the NEGLIGENCE ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF THE HLSR PARTIES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ANY SUCH ACT OR OMISSION WAS THE SOLE, PROXIMATE OR PRODUCING CAUSE OF THE CLAIMS, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

NO MINORS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES WITHOUT SIGNATURE OF A PARENT/GUARDIAN.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

I certify that the certification above is correct and I have informed the student and parent/guardian of the consequences of stated rule violations as to originality of artwork.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

FORM 2026 - School Art Program Release

## Appendix B: District Representative/Private School Representative Affidavit

### DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE/PRIVATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE AFFIDAVIT

State of Texas §

County of \_\_\_\_\_ §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, who after being first duly sworn did depose and state:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am of sound mind, capable of making this Affidavit and have personal knowledge of the facts herein stated. I am the district representative/private school representative for \_\_\_\_\_ (name of school district/private school).

Attached hereto is a Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement / Originality Certification Form signed by persons I believe to be the student whose artwork is entered in the 2025-2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art competition and his/her parent or guardian if applicable.

To the best of my knowledge, the work of art accompanying each Release (i) was started after the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year; (ii) was created under the supervision of a teacher in the student's school or school district without outside instruction, guidance, critique, or supervision; and (iii) is the student's original composition, content, and personal artistic expression.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC – STATE OF TEXAS

## Appendix C: Return of Artwork

The return of artwork is the responsibility of the school district or private school. The School Art Committee will not deliver artwork to the school district or private school. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will not mail artwork.

1. For private schools and Special Needs artwork, the pickup will be on Thursday, January 22, 2026 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
2. Non-auction artwork that won an award and hung in the Hayloft Gallery during the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be available for pick-up after the conclusion of Show and must be picked up by a school district representative or other designated person on one of the assigned pick-up days listed below:

Thursday, March 26, 2026	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday, March 28, 2026	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

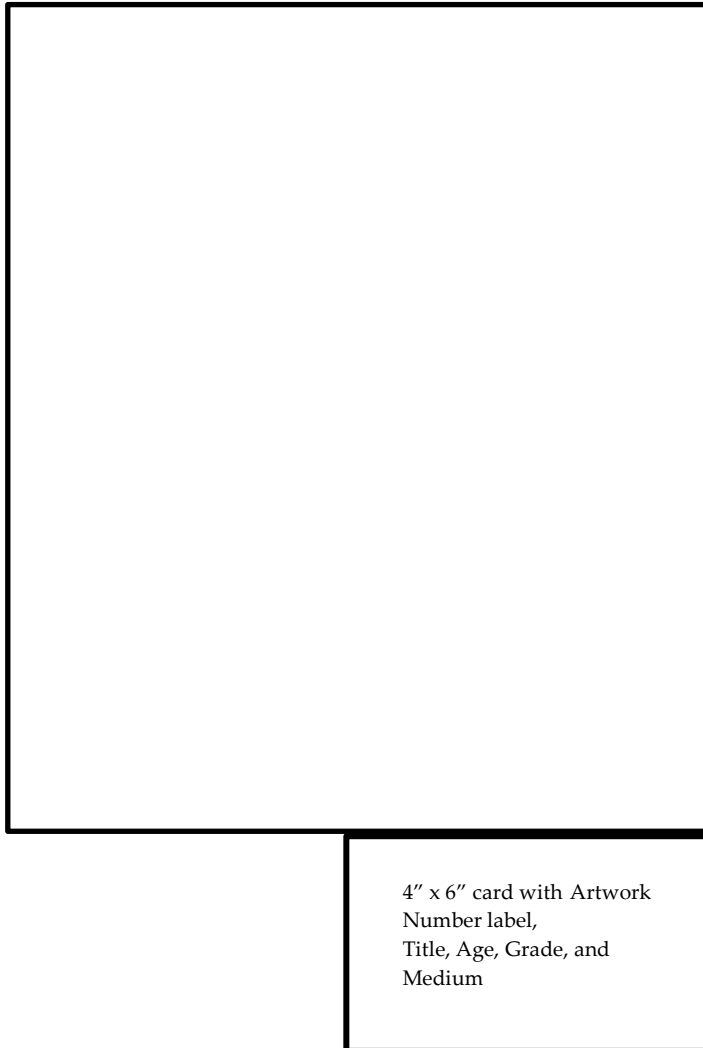
3. If you are unable to pick up artwork on one of these assigned days, you must contact your District Coordinator or the Contest Division Vice Chairman to arrange an alternate pick-up time. All artwork must be picked up each year before May 31. Artwork not picked up each year by this date may not be available for pick-up until Open House, which is hosted in early September.



## Appendix D: Artwork Example

Artwork should be prepared for judging as follows:

### FRONT OF ARTWORK (applicable for horizontal or vertical orientation)



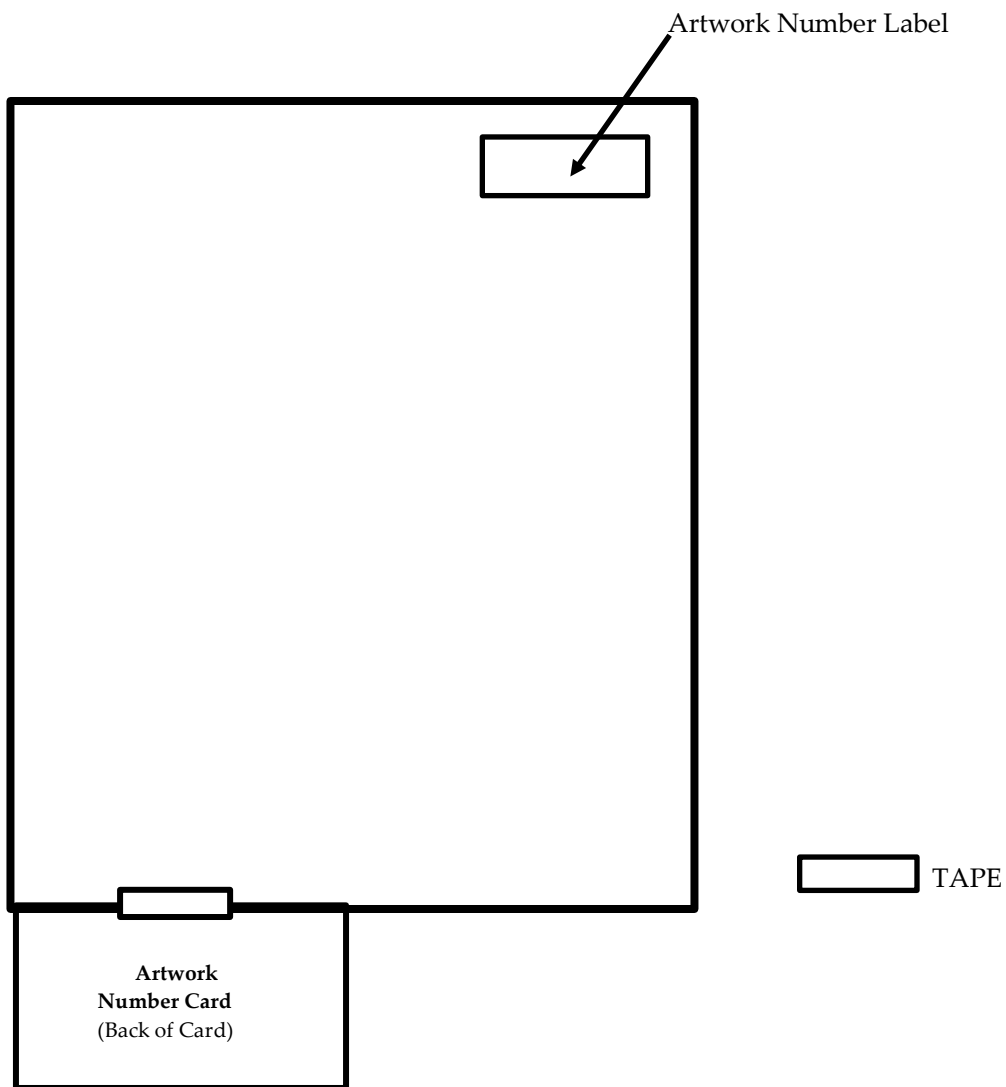
Minimum artwork size is 11" x 14" (including mat if used).

Maximum artwork size is 16" x 20" (including mat if used).

If a mat is used for artwork, it can be removed without damaging the artwork.

Securely attach the 4" x 6" card by taping the card to the BACK edge of the artwork

**High School and Junior High Back of artwork should look like this (applicable for horizontal or vertical orientation):**

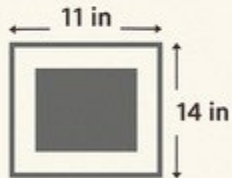


# ARTWORK SIZE & MATTING REQUIREMENTS

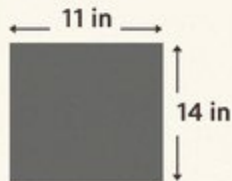
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## MINIMUM SIZE REQUIREMENTS

### WITH MAT

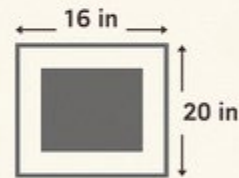


### WITHOUT MAT



## MAXIMUM SIZE REQUIREMENTS

### WITH MAT



### WITHOUT MAT

