



# SWIFT

## February 2025

**SPEECH WORKERS OF IOWA FEATURE THEMSELVES**

# IHSSA + YOU HELLO! HELLO!

- **NFHS COACH AWARDS**
- **STATE DEBATE CONGRATS**
- **ALL STATE LG COMMITTEE**
- **ALL STATE LG FESTIVAL**
- **IE UPDATES**
- **CONTEST DEADLINES**
- **JUDGE EVALUATION**
- **JUDGING DIRECTIVE**
- **POSTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA**
- **+ MORE!**

"The philosophy of the IHSSA is built upon the belief that no form of activity is any more important than that of learning to communicate effectively."



# 2025 NFHS/IHSSA

## OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR AWARDS



### **DENISE HEIMAN**

#### **Woodbury Central**

#### **Outstanding Theatre Educator**

Denise Heiman believes there is space for all in the theatre. If a chair doesn't exist for a student, she will build one. If there are no lines for a student, she will create them. If there is no space, she will invent it. Simply, Denise invites all into her program. For over 30 years, Denise has brought prestige to this small rural community and made her theatre a home for the whole school. Rather than "a sage on the stage", Denise is truly "a guide on the side." She has never been in the spotlight, never asked to be, and shies away from it so others can stand out. Denise's enthusiasm, passion, and diligence for speech education is felt by all by her willingness to always say "YES and" when called upon for service to the IHSSA.

### **LISA PHYFE**

#### **Waverly-Shell Rock**

#### **Outstanding Speech Educator**

Lisa Phyfe has hosted, chaired, "committee-ed", sponsored, initiated, spoken, and always—delivered with great authenticity, sparkling charisma, and true passion for all things speech. Lisa is best described by her peers as one who immediately ascertains genuine, true love for speech education. Simply, Lisa sparkles with the most positive of energies. Lisa's guidance and leadership with all things "speech" have helped develop statewide initiatives. She continues to guide community connections. She continues to lead workshops. She continues to adjudicate generously. Lisa is a true giver and even more so— a true guardian for every child. Lisa embraces change, welcomes new thinking, and has been an instrumental leader for the IHSSA.



**Ms. Heiman and Mrs. Phyfe will be presented with their NFHS Award at the IE All-State Festival in March at UNI.**



# IHSSA STATE DEBATE CONGRATS!



**SWEEPSTAKES  
AWARD  
IOWA CITY WEST**



**We are thankful to DMACC - Ankeny for being our host!**

**SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY: Iowa City West**

**2nd Place: Johnston**

**3rd Place: Grinnell**

**4th Place: Dowling Catholic**

**5th Place: Des Moines Roosevelt**

**LINCOLN DOUGLAS: West Des Moines Valley**

**Jayden Noblitt (WEST DES MOINES VALLEY) over  
Jerry Li (IOWA CITY WEST)**

**POLICY**

**Champion: Iowa City-City, CLOSE OUT**

**PUBLIC FORUM GALLIGAN DIVISION**

**Champion: Grinnell, CLOSE OUT**

**PUBLIC FORUM RIGGLEMAN DIVISION**

**Champion: Iowa City West, CLOSE OUT**

## **STUDENT CONGRESS**

**Champion: Aravind Balaji, Johnston**

**1st Runner-up: Cesar Duran-Oropeza, Dowling  
Catholic**

**2nd Runner-up: Alex Beveridge, Des Moines East**

**3rd Runner-up: Henry Godar, Des Moines Roosevelt**

**SPECIAL thanks to: Lauren Burdt, Rick Hunsaker,  
Kirk Johnson, Lauren McCool, Sam Magner, Nick  
Nelsen, and Denise Rathman, for their tireless work  
in managing the tournament.**

**SPECIAL thanks to the IHSSA Debate Committee:**

**Lydia Cowins, Des Moines Christian**

**Anne Deam, Carroll**

**Jeremy Fitzpatrick, Johnston**

**Kirk Kelloway, CAM**

**Spencer Waugh, Simpson College for their assistance  
and leadership.**

**MUCH GRATITUDE: All judges who shared their  
insight and expertise.**

**For more complete results of the 2025 State Debate  
Tournament, please go to the IHSSA web site at  
[www.ihssa.org/CONTESTS/DEBATE/BALLOTS](http://www.ihssa.org/CONTESTS/DEBATE/BALLOTS).**





# IHSSA ALL STATE LARGE GROUP FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The LARGE GROUP ALL STATE COMMITTEE meets in the summer and the fall as well as the weeks leading up to ALL-State. They are responsible for the planning of the Festival and making sure all runs smoothly. Much, much gratitude to the All-State LG Committee!



**EMILY EISENMAN**

NE: Waterloo West

I love supporting my IHSSA Family by saying "Yes!" to leadership opportunities. I'm especially excited to learn all about LG All-State while on this committee.

**JAMES and JAYLENE DE VOS**

NW: Cherokee

It is a joy to be on LG All-State committee, meeting coaches from other parts of the state. It has really been interesting to understand the process of All-State nominations and the honor bestowed to students.



**EMILY HINTZE**

SE: North Scott

I love working with the IHSSA because we work to do what's best for kids, always. All-State is a celebration of this ideal (and so much fun)!

**STACIE KINTIGH**

SE: North Scott

The IHSSA All-State Festival encompasses what we all seek to do as IHSSA Coaches - champion our kids! love what the IHSSA stands for and I am grateful to be part of the overwhelming strength of our combined IHSSA mission.



**JACKI PLEGGENKUHLE**

SW: Waukee

I love to support student performances and the IHSSA in any way I can. The All-State Festival is an excellent opportunity to see the creativity of different schools from all over the state!

**BRAD NESBITT**

Special Assistant to the E. D.

I love working with such fantastic speech coaches as well as a fantastic Executive Director that all work together to serve the IHSSA contest students.



**LIZ HANSEN**

Special Assistant to the E. D.

It's an exhilarating day for our entire state to unite! The best from the Northwest, Southeast, Northeast, and Southwest—students, coaches, parents, and our speech family—coming together as one to celebrate!

**S** E. Wayne Cooley, former IHSSA Executive Director as well as the former IGHS AU Executive Director, is responsible for the creation of the All-State Large Group Festival. Mr. Cooley envisioned a festival that celebrated the IHSSA Speech Student! The first festival was held in 1979 at Drake University. Other hosts include: Central College, Ankeny High School, Urbandale High School, Hoover High School + others. In 2001, under the direction of former IHSSA Executive Director Craig Ihnen, the festival relocated to Iowa State University where it remains today.



# *LARGE GROUP ALL-STATE FESTIVAL*



## *2025 TENTATIVE LARGE GROUP CRITICS*

**ONE ACT:** Janet Albanese, Des Moines  
Performing Arts

**READERS THEATRE:** Dennis Doyle, Central College/  
IHSSA Hall of Fame

**CHORAL READING:** J'Kalein Madison,  
The Guthrie Theater

**ENSEMBLE ACTING:** Rob Lindley, *Phantom of the  
Opera*/ Chicago-based Actor and Director

**SOLO/GROUP MIME:** Alecia Juelfs, University of  
Sioux Falls

**TELEVISION NEWSCASTING/RADIO:** Laryssa Lambertsen,  
WHO Channel 5

**GROUP IMPROVISATION:** Scott Morehead, The Walt  
Disney Company/ Lickity-Split Improv

**MUSICAL THEATRE:** Napoleon Douglas, Pyramid  
Theatre Company/ DMACC

**SHORT FILM:** Andrew Lopez, FX, Hulu, Apple +



# ALL-STATE FESTIVAL



## LARGE GROUP NOTES

### WHY BECOME AN ALL-STATE ROOM CHAIR?

Each year the All-State Committees ask coaches and judges to be roomchairs for the Festivals. These great volunteers help the Festivals run efficiently. If you have not been a Roomchair, please say "YES" when asked. It makes such a huge difference for the students and the Festival. Vince Hrasky (Roomchair at All-State & former member of the All-State Committee ) gives some good reasons why:

1. Seeing the very best is incredibly motivating.
2. It always gives me ideas for scripts and staging for the next year.
3. It gives me a day of interaction with an expert in the field.
4. I get to see other coaches at work.
5. Free Lunch!

**SIGN UP NOW**



PLEASE COMPLETE THIS GOOGLE FORM IF INTERESTED!

## ALL-STATE FESTIVAL POSTING

On Monday evening February 10 after 5:00 PM, nominations will be posted on the IHSSA website. Please go to **CONTESTS/LG.GROUP/ALL-STATE**. Also, in the same area, the All-State Program will be available for viewing. Do not bookmark these pages because we will change that page address on the 10th. Plus, there will be other changes during the day of the 10th.

## ALL-STATE HISTORY

Submitted by Vince Williams, IHSSA Judge and Former IHSSA All-State Committee

I was teacher of Speech and Dramatic Arts and Director for all plays presented by Dubuque Hempstead High School from 1971 through 2000. During that time we held an annual one-act play-writing contest in which the top three plays and their student playwrights won "Oscar-like" statue awards they could keep. In some measure it was the success of this tangible symbol that helped prompt my ideas for All-State recognition. In the 1970's and 80's I was a member of the All-State Committee planning how the highest honors, or performance achievements in the IHSSA series of speech and drama competition could best be awarded and made most effective. I devised the point system (which has since been somewhat adjusted and changed). But recalling my experience with the success of the statue awards mentioned above, I suggested the concept of the traveling banners. I had been a sketch artist much of my life and when the Committee, as a whole, decided to authorize the banners idea, I set about to sketch a possible design. From that design, the current banners were further developed – one for each group category. All-State Critic Recipient schools are permitted to display the impressive banner throughout the year which is a continuing object of pride and incentive towards further achievement.



# ALL-STATE PROGRAM 2025

**LG All-State Program Work : THURSDAY, February 13, 12:00 PM NOON**

*(Be sure to read if you have groups who make All-State)*

**DUE: THURSDAY, February 13, 12:00 NOON**

Please use this **EXACT format. READ CLOSELY! Please follow directions.**

When your group is named to the All-State Festival , the coach will send in the group information via e-mail by **THURSDAY, FEB. 13, 12:00 NOON.**

This will allow us to be sure names are spelled correctly. You can also include all the coaches that need to be listed with the group.

**MINDY@ihssa.org**

When your group is named to All-State **(either performing or non-performing)** send an email to the State Office (**MINDY@ihssa.org**) with the listing of the groups.

**The e-mail SUBJECT should read:** All-State Group Names



**The text in the e-mail should read:**

SCHOOL (in Caps), Title, author, listing of students' first name then last name, listing the coach's name(s) similar to the example below.

If there is no title such as in Group Improv, TV News, or Radio Broadcasting you start then with SCHOOL, listing of students' names, then the coach's name(s).

## **EXAMPLES:**

**For OAP, EA, RT, CR, Mime, MT**

GREAT SCHOOL -Almost Maine by John Cariani - Jason Eslinger, Stacy Hansen, Erin Gerlich (c- Gary Ross)

**For Radio, Short Film, and TV**

GREAT SCHOOL- KWXT- by TV Ensemble - Taylor Anderson, Stacy Hansen, Pam Wymer (c- Gary Ross, Heidi Reed, and Ben Van Wyk)

**For Improv (USE NAMES OF STUDENTS ONLY- No "team" names**

GREAT SCHOOL - Taylor Anderson, Madison Melchert (c- Gary Ross)



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# TICKET ALL-STATE FESTIVAL INFO

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Notification of All-State nominations will be on the web site. In addition, a large envelope mailed USPS with many All-State materials will be sent to the IHSSA Coach of each school that qualifies for the Festival. That packet will be shipped out of the State Office on Monday and should reach every school in the state by Thursday or when your USPS is delivered. This packet will contain the All-State notification letters and wristbands for each participant and coach(s).

Any school that has students qualifying for the All-State Festival as performers or special recognition will receive free wristbands. Any IHSSA coach in the state that wishes to attend the Festival will be admitted free. Coaches need to contact the State Office, and a wristbands will be sent to respective schools if you wish to attend when you do not have students that qualify.

Wristbands must be worn at all times by all coaches and participants attending the Festival. Be sure to tell your students to not remove their band even if they are performing.

Maps, hotel numbers, and room information about the ISU Center and other items are available on the IHSSA website.

**REMINDER: All spectators will be sold ONLINE through BOUND TICKETING. This link will be available at the IHSSA website. All spectators MUST purchase an online ticket. If spectators do not have an online ticket, they must purchase one at the All-State Festival. This will be enforced.**

Cost for the Festival is \$12 per person, for ages 5+.. There are no discounts for senior citizens. The \$12 cost is for the entire day or for any part of the day.

Free programs for the Festival will be distributed at check in at the Scheman Building. Plan on checking in at the Scheman Building to receive your free programs. Programs for spectators will be sold as in the past for \$5.

The ISU Center is not available as a 'landing area' for students. There are plenty of spaces to hang out and put your coats in the coat check or in an area for your school. We ask that materials for performance such as steps and blocks be brought into the respective buildings a performance or two before you go on and then returned to your bus or van immediately after your performance. We do not have the room to store these types of materials at the ISU Center. Since there is no problem with parking at the ISU Center and there are great drop off lanes, your bus driver should have no problem with this.



# ALL-STATE FESTIVAL

## NOTES



### Note on All-State nominations:

Please remember that just receiving straight I's at State does NOT mean you are nominated for All-State. At the end of the day judges must nominate events they believe are worthy of All-State. Two judges must nominate you for the All-State honor. There are many groups with straight I ratings that are not performers at All-State. We suggest you explain this to your students and parents.

### Inclement weather at All-State:

Please remember if All-State Festivals encounter weather concerns and they are cancelled, no make-up will be done because of the sites and time schedules. It is not imperative to attend the festival in order to receive your medals. If you cannot attend the festival, medals and programs will be sent to you at your school. Please remember the All-State is a festival and not a contest!

### ROYALTIES APPLY AT FESTIVAL as well as all CONTESTS:

It is the duty and the responsibility of the director to secure appropriate production rights for all material presented in IHSSA contest series including festivals. If you have any questions on this, please refer to page 13 of the Constitution, or call the State Office.

### FESTIVAL and CONTEST DECORUM:

Please remember that we are guests in the schools and at the universities that are hosting contest/festival. It is incumbent on every coach to be aware of what their students are doing and how they are behaving at that particular contest. At no time is there any place for a student from your school to take it upon themselves to damage the contest school environment or the festival site.

## NO PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOTAPING at CONTESTS/FESTIVALS.

Please remember that videotaping/photography is not allowed at IHSSA Contests/ Festivals.





# 50TH ANNUAL LG. GROUP ALL STATE SPONSORS



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**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Music and Theatre**

[CLICK LINK.](#)





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**PEOPLE. PROGRESS. PRIDE.®**



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PROVIDED BY THE  
NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT FOR  
THE ARTS AND  
THE IOWA ARTS  
COUNCIL, WHICH  
EXISTS WITHIN  
THE IOWA  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY.**

**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**

[arts.gov](http://arts.gov)

[CLICK LINK.](#)

**IOWA**

**College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences**

[CLICK LINK.](#)





## DONATION REQUEST

At all contests (IE and LG) a suggested donation will be asked of all spectators to help out the local contest site with other expenses. That suggested donation is \$5 per person. All student contestants, coaches, and drivers will not be asked to pay this donation. Be sure to inform your parents and other spectators that this \$5 donation will be anticipated at the door of each contest site this year. All-State is a fee of \$12 for the day.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

Weather information for contest days will always be posted on the IHSSA web site front page. Be sure to check the web site if there is a problem or concern. If a contest site operates, it becomes the responsibility of the member school to decide to attend or not attend. The school has the right to choose not to attend, however NO make-up contests will be arranged for schools that choose not to attend. District and State contests will be rescheduled since they are a contest and not a Festival. Please understand your local school always has the right and final decision whether or not to attend a contest due to weather concerns. Please remember - coming to the contest later is always an option. If an entire contest is rescheduled then that is the final date for the contest and a school will have to go to contest on that date.

## READ THE RULES

Every year a group or a student is given a DQ because the school did not carefully read the rules for the event! It is best to review the rules for each category as students begin their rehearsals. If not already done, please take a moment before you travel to contest to go over all the rules together. It will be worth the time and you will be glad you did. Plus, many eyes looking at the rules makes for correct application of the rules for your events. Also be sure to read the rules and regulations in the front part of the Constitution. TAKE THE TIME TO READ THE RULES!!!

## CONTEST DEADLINES

Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Many times individuals start their entry the day it is due and then run into problems. Do not wait until the last moment to complete your registrations. You will still be charged a late fee if materials are not submitted ontime.



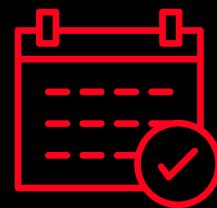


# NOTES



**Need COMMENT SHEETS? Print copies of these NOW. Use them in your rehearsals. Do not wait until the last moment to print these. Click HERE.** (District = 1 judge = 1 comment sheet. 1 Act = 3 judges = 3 comment sheets. State = 3 judges = 3 comment sheets.)

**SCHEDULES for CONTEST:** will be posted at [IHSSA.org](http://IHSSA.org). Click **CONTESTS**. Then, choose either **DISTRICT** or **STATE**. Each Contest Manager will also send the contest schedule to each director via email. Coaches should send each contest manager their email to receive the schedule. Directors: make sure you have communicated with your contest manager to receive the schedule.



**VIDEOTAPING/PHOTOGRAPHY is NOT allowed at contest.** This includes any type of recording device. Please pass his important information onto your parents/spectators. This policy is effective for **ALL IHSSA contests and festivals.**

## **IHSSA ELIGIBILITY**

By directive of the Executive Board, please remember all students in all events must be academically eligible. This includes students in Short Film, Radio, and TV. All students must be eligible when the short film is given at contest. If a student was ineligible when it was filmed and is not eligible on the date of the contest, that film cannot be shown at contest. **YOU CANNOT USE AN INELIGIBLE CONTESTANT IN IHSSA ACTIVITIES.** If you need more clarification call the State Office. [HERE IS THE ELIGIBILITY POLICY.](#)



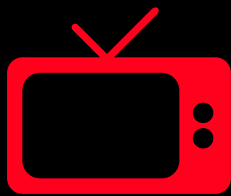
# MORE notes

**MUSICAL THEATRE:** Please note "NO UNIFORMITY of ATTIRE." Students can NOT dress the same. However, rehearsal black attire is allowed.



**SHORT FILM:** Credits are part of the timing. Make sure you have timed your schools' short films and critically reviewed them prior to contest.

**RADIO BROADCASTING:** You may have one or more commercials for a total of 30- 45 seconds. You cannot interview an outside school person for your broadcast. You may have one of your students portray a person; however, it **MUST** be a high school member and an eligible member of the team that is presenting the Radio Broadcast.



**TV NEWS:** You may have one or more commercials under the total time of 120 seconds.

**CHORAL READING/READERS THEATRE SCRIPTS:** Scripts **MUST** be identifiable. Use the script with purpose. Make sure it is easily seen and serves the story.



**ONTIME:** You must be **ONTIME** with your **REGISTRATION**. If you do not submit entries on time, your entries may be scheduled at the end of the day.



# JUDGE EVALUATION FORM



Your voice is important! After every contest the Judge Certification Committee asks for your insight and assistance in completing the "Judge Evaluation Forms". Here's why ...

Each August, the Judge Certification Committee thoroughly examines each and every individual evaluation form. Judges who have earned superior feedback receive positive affirmation from the State Office. Judges that are in need of support receive extra guidance and clarification. Your assessment makes the whole process circular -- our judges "judge" our students and we "judge" our judges. Also, this is your opportunity to model and exercise "justification". Ultimately this system of giving and receiving constructive feedback is better for the whole community: judges, coaches, and most importantly -- our students. Additionally, your evaluation assists the Judge Certification Committee in collecting information for areas that are in need of training and/or areas that require more clarification. Your feedback aids in the thoughtfulness of continued education to judges on the rules as well as how to properly interpret and justify the IHSSA Constitution.

We kindly ask that you complete a judge evaluation form as close to the end of each contest day as possible. Your thoughts will be fresh in your mind before you encounter your next contest day and your next round of judges. Your Contest Manager will include a reminder and specific instructions for completing the "Judge Evaluation Forms" with your ballots.

1. Your Contest Manager will supply you with the LIST of JUDGES at Contest.
2. Complete an evaluation for each judge.





# IE UPDATES

## Repeating IE Events

Anyone who received a Division “I” rating at the state contest may repeat in that same individual event. If an individual received an Outstanding performance award, they may return in the same event the next year. They **MUST** use a different selection.

## IE Musical Theatre

You can take 3 of your Acting entries and have them become Solo Musical Theatre. When entering this event it is listed like all other events when you enter on-line. Be sure to read how an intro is being done! The Roomchair will give the intro information and the performer will then start into their selection. The student will **NEVER** give an intro! Read your rules as there were some changes in this area.

## IE Musical Theatre

If you are using sheet music for this event please remember you can **NEVER** rearrange the music or change the score. The presentation must be what you purchased as the sheet music. You must always start at the beginning of the song. The IHSSA will not support any school that does not get permission to perform materials or cuttings in contest.

## Directive Statement

The following statement will be shared with every judge that is judging IHSSA District Contest. The judge will be asked to read this statement before they are to judge that day. The Executive Committee believes it is important for all coaches to read this statement before they head into District Contest.

Speech Coaches, Judges, and the Executive Committee of the IHSSA advocate that judging (especially at the district level) needs to be discerning on the quality of student performances advancing into state level competition. If entire sections advance to state, even when there is an evident difference in performance-levels within the section, or a judge awards a proportionately higher number of “I” ratings over the “II” rating, then we need to exercise greater discernment as to what is worthy of advancing to State.

An over-inflated number of students from the District level advancing to State diminishes each student's sense of the value of his/her accomplishment. If everybody advances, what has been won too easily means little. As a result, a belief could develop that students need not prepare for District, only State; and we, as judges, lower our expectations rather than expect contestants to refine their communication skills. Discernment means we must set levels of accomplishment suited for the District level, suited for high school participants, and encourage students to those levels of performance.





# ++ UPDATES



## Invoices & Payments

Please remember to make a copy of your on-line entry form and give to your bookkeeper. This form is the invoice for your contest entry fees. Nothing will be sent from this office for payment of contest fees. Please do your part and get that form to the office that handles your finances. Many times we have schools that we have to contact to pay their fees. Please submit your fees in a timely manner.

## No "Switching"

Coaches are advised that you can't switch your entries at the contest site without approval of the IHSSA State Office or the local contest manager. An example of this would be School A has three Solo Mimes at contest. Number 1 is at 10:00, Number 2 is at 11:30 and Number 3 is at 3:30. School A coach goes into the contest office and says that Solo Mime Number 3 will now be at 10:00 and Number 1 will now be at 3:30. Unless School A's coach has written permission from the State Office, he/she cannot switch times.


The rationale for this rule is that contest managers have a very difficult job putting a contest together and then reporting it correctly to the IHSSA State Office. When schools switch performing times among themselves, it causes the contest manager's job to become even more difficult.

## Entry Forms

Be sure to take your time in correctly filling out your school's entry forms. Please read all of the directions for on-line registration before you start.

If you have a 9th grade team entry, take the time to fill out both a Sr. eligibility, Jr. eligibility, and separate fee payment forms. You may, however, send the entire payment in one check. Submit your invoices immediately to your bookkeeper for payment.

Also remember that you cannot mix students between the Jr. and Sr. memberships. All 9th graders must be in the Jr. membership and only 10-12 graders can be in the Sr. membership if your school has two memberships.





# EDUCATE your SPECTATORS

Please share this information and video with your parents/guardians.

PREPARE SPECTATORS

**1. Are performance times exact?** No. Plan on arriving to your student's center at least 1/2 hour early. Most often, centers run ahead of time.

**2. Is videotaping and photography allowed?** No videotaping or photography is permissible. In fact, it may disqualify the performing school.

**3. Can local school logo (ie. a sweatshirt with school logo) be worn by spectators?** No. Refrain from all apparel that informs the judge of what school the participants are from.

**4. Are students permitted to leave after they are finished performing?** ALL teams and students are encouraged to support other schools' performances. The big "team" is the whole "IHSSA Family."

**5. What are the qualifications of the judges?** All IHSSA judges have gone through training and certification. Please accept your student's ratings with pride and dignity. Adhere to proper sportsmanship at all times.

**6. How are ratings given?** At Districts, one judge critiques the performance with a I, II, III, or Disqualification IV rating. The judge also gives an oral critique. Only those receiving a I rating advance to State. At State, three judges critique the performance. No oral critique is given. Only those performances that receive at least two All-State nominations AND also are in the upper percentages of point ratings advance to All-State.

**7. If I don't know where/when my student performs, what should I do?** DO make sure you DO know ahead of time from your local speech department your student's times and locations. Please do not rely on the contest site head office, as the contest managers are extremely busy. Students WILL know the schedule the week of the contest.

**8. Can anyone come to contest?** Yes, all are invited. There is a \$5 donation that is asked of all audience members at the main door for Districts and State.

**9. May I watch any group perform?** Yes, and you are encouraged to watch students from other schools as well as other categories.



# EDUCATE your SPECTATORS



# IHSSA REGISTRATION



## 1 PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Have your payment made by the deadline. You must have your IHSSA membership fee paid by the deadline.

**You should have login/password by now. IF YOU DO NOT, contact STACY!**

PO is not payment. Too, please remember the deadline of registration. Late entry penalized will be enforced per constitutional rules. Late entries will perform at the end of the day. Please do your part and get the form to your business office for payment.

## 2 OBTAIN LOGIN/PASSWORD

The user name and password you need to log in to the IHSSA website will be emailed to you several times before the deadline.

PO is not payment. Too, please remember the deadline of registration. Late entry penalized will be enforced per constitutional rules. Late entries will perform at the end of the day. Please do your part and get the form to your business office for payment.

## 3 CHECK YOUR SITE LOCATION

Check the IHSSA.ORG website for your site. [CONTESTS/ INDIVIDUAL EVENTS/ DISTRICTS.](#)

## 4 EMAIL YOUR CONTEST MANAGER

After you find out your DISTRICT site location, EMAIL your contest manager your contact information. You must email your contest manager: [HERE ARE CONTEST MANAGERS' CONTACTS.](#)

## 5 SUBMIT ONLINE REGISTRATION

Complete the ONLINE REGISTRATION at the IHSSA website for DISTRICT REGISTRATION. Print 3 copies. (1) for payment to submit to the IHSSA (2) 1 to send to District Contest Manager (3) and a copy for your records. You need the log in/password for this. The form is the invoice for your contest entry fees.

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FEBRUARY

## 6 SUBMIT IMMEDIATE PAYMENT \$ TO IHSSA

Work with your business office and secure payment to the IHSSA. Remember, a PO is not payment. Too, please remember the deadline of registration. Late entry penalized will be enforced per constitutional rules. Late entries will perform at the end of the day. Please do your part and get the form to your business office for payment.

## 7 CALL STACY 4 SPECIAL REQUESTS

All special requests for performances must be called to Stacy Hansen. Contest Managers will not accept special requests. Special requests are for school related events only. NO SPECIAL REQUESTS will be accepted for ACT/SAT TESTING.

13  
FEBRUARY

## GOT ??'s?



[USE THIS additional step-by-step handout](#) for additional support.

[WATCH THIS VIDEO](#) for additional support.



Thank you CARRIE TINKHAM, Coach at Large, for providing helpful guide and video! .



# FEBRUARY/MARCH SUGGESTED COACH CALENDAR

## I. FEBRUARY

- A. Finish State preparations.
- B. Secure proper travel permissions/health forms.
- C. Attend State Contest. Bring COMMENT SHEETS!
- D. Read critiques. Complete Judge Evaluations online.
- E. Check in All-State forms (on-line)
- F. Volunteer to be a room chair at All State.
- G. Attend All-State to perform and to learn.
- H. Send IE Registration FORM and PAYMENT \$\$\$ to IHSSA State Office. On TIME!
- I. Request IE special requests by deadline.
- J. Prepare travel information for District IE.
- K. Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse.
- L. Send thank you note to District Contest Manager.
- M. Register for STATE IE.
- N. Call State office by deadline if you have a special time request.
- N. Keep rehearsing for STATE.



## II. MARCH (State IE)

- A. Attend STATE CONTEST. Remember your comment sheets.
- B. Watch performers from other schools/listen.
- C. Read critique sheets.
- D. Send a thank you note to STATE contest manager.
- E. Fill out judge evaluation forms and send to state office.
- F. Arrange for students to perform for speech or English classes or community groups.
- G. Check the Internet for All-State information.
- H. Secure travel information for All-State.
- I. Go to All-State IE with performers or to observe.



**REMINDER** It is imperative you spell your students' names correctly and consistently. For example, the computer will read "Jon Smith" and "John Smith" as two separate people, and may schedule them at the same time. Spell your students' names correctly.

# IHSSA CONTEST ENTRY DEADLINES

**LG ALL STATE**

Immediately after notification

**DISTRICT IE**

February 12, 2025

**STATE IE**

Immediately after District

**ALG ALL STATE**

Immediately after notification

**EARLY is ON TIME.**

**ON TIME is LATE.**

**LATE is....OH NO!**

Send in payment early. The  
PO is NOT  
payment. Communicate  
EARLY with your bookkeeper.



Please remember these deadline dates. Late entry penalties will be enforced per the IHSSA Constitution. All late entries will be placed at the end of the performance day, as per the Executive Committee. EARLY is ON TIME.

## SPECIAL REQUESTS

By direction of the Executive Committee, all special requests must be CALLED INTO THE STATE OFFICE by the dates listed below:

State LG: January 29, 2025

District IE: February 13, 2025

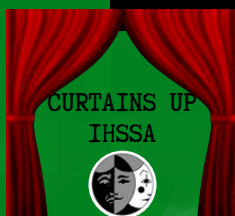
State IE: March 5, 2025



Special requests after these deadlines will only be accepted on an emergency basis. Email requests or phone messages will not be honored. You must speak directly to Stacy Hansen, IHSSA Executive Director. Contest Managers will not accept special requests. ACT/SAT testing is not a special request. Thanks for your compliance.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: IHSSA + YOU!

**You  
Tube**



LOOK for CURTAINS UP! A weekly video message about all things IHSSA on our YOUTUBE channel.



# 2025 SPONTANEOUS SPEAKING AREAS

These 10 areas will produce the questions for the 2025 Spontaneous Speaking category for both District and State Contest. Please note these are NOT the questions, just areas for students to conduct their research.

1. National government issues and their effects on the average person in America.
2. Security issues in our schools, our nation, and in the world.
3. The economy in America and the world.
4. Laws and rules that relate to students.
5. Media's effects on our lives.
6. Health issues including mental health issues.
7. The President, Congress and the state of government in the United States.
8. Business issues including local, state, national, and international issues.
9. Educational issues facing our youth.
10. Current/past art and sporting events.

Possible questions could be:

*What is the biggest issue for our students in schools today? Is America safe from terrorism? Can we restore civility to political debate?*

## SHORT FILM, TV NEWSCASTING, RADIO BROADCASTING REMINDER

As per the IHSSA Constitution, you must provide your own media formatted presentation. The contest site will have a backup just in case something happens to your projector or computer; however, it is your responsibility to bring your own equipment. Each individual school is responsible for bringing their own AV equipment in SHORT FILM, TV NEWSCASTING, and RADIO BROADCASTING. Do not rely on the contest manager supplying these for you. Do not rely on the contest school's WIFI.

**BRING TO CONTEST:** Your own projector

Your own multiple copies of your Short Film/TV/Radio

Your own extension chords

Your own extra speakers (if you have)

Your own extra cart (if you have)



If you bring your own equipment, you will have no problems showing these events. We have had some issues with this in the past. Please bring your own equipment to show your presentations. What each site will have is a cart to set up your equipment in the hallway before each presentation. When your event is ready to go, you wheel the cart in and your presentation will be set. There will be no setting up equipment in the room. This should help those events run smoothly. If you are using music for short film, tv news, or radio broadcasting you must get rights from the copyright holder and get synchronization rights for that music. **DO NOT USE MUSIC WITHOUT THOSE RIGHTS!**

**\*\*NOTE on timing of the Short Film: Credits ARE a part of the time. If you show credits, yes, they do count as part of the time.**





# IHSSA POLICIES

## WEAPONS POLICY



IT IS UP TO EACH LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DETERMINE THEIR WEAPONS POLICY FOR PROPS AT IHSSA CONTESTS. THE IHSSA'S LEGAL COUNSEL CONFERS THAT IT WILL BE THE DUTY OF AN INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL TO WRITE THEIR PARTICULAR CONTEST SITE MANAGER IF THEY HAVE A LOOK-ALIKE WEAPON IN THEIR CONTEST SELECTION. THEN THE LOCAL CONTEST SITE WILL MAKE THE DECISION IF THEY WILL ALLOW THE LOOK-ALIKE ON STAGE OR IN THE CLASSROOM ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN DISTRICT RULES. AN EXAMPLE WOULD BE: SCHOOL B IS DOING A CHORAL READING INVOLVING THE OLD WEST. THEY WILL BE WEARING TOY PLASTIC PISTOLS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL IN THE CHORAL READING. SCHOOL B MUST THEN WRITE THEIR LOCAL CONTEST SITE MANAGER AND ASK PERMISSION TO USE THIS LOOK-ALIKE PROP WEAPON AT THAT SITE. THE CONTEST SITE MANAGER WILL THEN INFORM SCHOOL B THAT IT WILL BE 1) ALLOWED WITH NO SPECIFICATIONS, 2) ALLOWED WITH SPECIFICATIONS, OR 3) WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. BEGINNING IN THE 1996 CONTEST SEASON, EACH DISTRICT IN THE STATE WAS ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN LOCAL WEAPONS POLICY. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ON THIS PLEASE CALL THE STATE OFFICE.

## TOBACCO/ALCOHOL POLICY



NO REAL TOBACCO, VAPOR PRODUCTS OR ALCOHOL WILL EVER BE USED IN IHSSA CONTEST ENTRIES. THIS INCLUDES LIVE PRODUCTIONS AT CONTEST AS WELL AS SHORT FILM/TV NEWSCASTING PRODUCTIONS THAT ARE FILMED OFFSITE. LOOK ALIKE ALCOHOL, VAPOR PRODUCTS, OR TOBACCO THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR IHSSA PRODUCTIONS AT CONTEST OR IN FILMED EVENTS SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL AND SECURED BY THE IHSSA COACH. ALL SUCH "LOOK ALIKES" WILL BE FACSIMILES OR NON-FUNCTIONING PROPS. THE IHSSA COACH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR STORING THE PROP "LOOK ALIKE" IN A LOCKED ROOM OR SECURE, CONCEALED STORAGE AREA. STUDENTS WILL CHECK OUT THESE PROPS WHEN NEEDED AND WILL BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES. REAL ALCOHOL, VAPOR PRODUCTS OR TOBACCO SHOULD NEVER BE USED IN AN IHSSA PRODUCTION. USE OF REAL PRODUCTS IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW FOR THE STUDENT(S) AND THE SCHOOL.

STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO BRING A 'LOOK ALIKE' ALCOHOL, VAPOR PRODUCT, OR TOBACCO PROP TO SCHOOL OR AN IHSSA CONTEST. ALL PROPS (EMPTY CANS, BOTTLES, FAKE TOBACCO PRODUCTS, VAPOR PRODUCTS) SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL AND SECURED BY THE IHSSA COACH. THE PROP SHOULD BE WRAPPED WHENEVER IT IS MOVED FROM ONE AREA OF THE SCHOOL/CONTEST SITE TO ANOTHER. THIS MOVING SHOULD BE DONE ONLY BY THE TEACHER/COACH. STUDENTS SHOULD NEVER CARRY THESE PROPS THROUGH THE HALLS OF A SCHOOL/CONTEST SITE. IF THE LOOK ALIKE PROP IS USED IN A REHEARSAL, AT A FILMING, OR AT CONTEST ALL ADMINISTRATORS OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS SHOULD BE NOTIFIED OF THE USE OF THAT ITEM.

ALL CONTEST MANAGERS SHOULD BE ALERTED IF A "LOOK ALIKE" TOBACCO, VAPOR PRODUCT, OR ALCOHOL PROP IS BEING USED IN THE IHSSA CONTEST SERIES.

**COACHES: BE AWARE OF THIS IN YOUR VIDEO EVENTS TOO!**







## WHERE do I go for contest?

**IE DISTRICT SITE ASSIGNMENTS:** Available at [IHSSA.org](http://IHSSA.org)  
[CONTESTS/INDIVIDUAL EVENTS/DISTRICTS](#)

## WHEN do I register for contest?



District IE registration is now open.

District IE registration is DUE February 12.



## WHERE will I register for contest?

You will register online at [ihssa.org](http://ihssa.org) using your secure login/password. Contact the IHSSA Office if you need login info.



# Contest Sites 25

### NORTHWEST

#### LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

LeMars  
Manson Northwest Webster  
Sheldon

#### LARGE GROUP STATE

Spencer

#### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Fort Dodge  
Lawton-Bronson  
Okoboji

Whiting

#### INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Woodbury Central

### NORTHEAST

#### LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Cascade  
Hampton-Dumont CAL  
Turkey Valley

#### LARGE GROUP STATE

Decorah

#### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Independence  
Janesville

West Hancock

#### INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Starmont

### SOUTHWEST

#### LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

ACGC  
Clarke Osceola  
Des Moines East  
Glenwood

#### LARGE GROUP STATE

Waukee

#### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Ankeny  
CAM  
Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson  
Mt. Ayr

#### INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Ames

### SOUTHEAST

#### LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Camanche  
Clear Creek Amana  
Monticello  
South Tama  
**LARGE GROUP STATE**  
Cedar Rapids Washington

#### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Central DeWitt  
Pekin  
Pleasantville

West Burlington

#### INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

North Scott

**STATE DEBATE: Jan. 10/11**  
**ANKENY DMACC CAMPUS**

**LG.GROUP ALL STATE FESTIVAL:**  
**IOWA STATE, February 22**

**IE ALL STATE FESTIVAL:**  
**UNI, March 31**



# IHSSA + YOU



## **IHSSA DATES FOR 2024-2025**

**AUGUST 17, 2024 - JUDGES / COACHES WORKSHOP, VIRTUAL**

**OCTOBER 11/12, 2024 - IHSSA COACHES CONVENTION  
GATEWAY HOTEL, AMES**

**JANUARY 10/11, 2025 - STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT,  
DMACC, ANKENY**

**JANUARY 25, 2025 - DISTRICT LARGE GROUP CONTEST**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2025 - STATE LARGE GROUP CONTEST**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2025 - ALL-STATE FESTIVAL LARGE GROUP  
IOWA STATE CENTER, AMES**

**MARCH 1, 2025 - DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL EVENTS**

**MARCH 15, 2025 - STATE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS**

**MARCH 31, 2025 - ALL-STATE FESTIVAL INDIVIDUAL EVENTS,  
UNI, CEDAR FALLS**

Get these dates to your students, parents, and administration so you  
can plan for these dates next year!

Web link for all Unified Dates for 2022-2027  
<http://ighsau.org/calendar/>

