



SWIFT

February 2026

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."

2026 NFHS/IHSSA

OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR AWARDS



JEREMY FITZPATRICK JOHNSTON

Outstanding Theatre Educator

For 30 years, Mr. Jeremy Fitzpatrick has served the Iowa High School Speech Association with generosity, with passion, with foresight and intellect. Jeremy has developed Johnston High School's theatre program into exemplary status. At the same time, Jeremy has also served as Iowa High School Speech District Officer, Debate Committee Member, and NSDA National Host Committee Member. What makes Jeremy especially unique is his ability to honor both the theatre and the debate worlds. He understands that performance is not one-size-fits-all; whether students are speaking from a podium or standing in a spotlight, they are learning to find their voice.

KEVIN HOSBOND

Grinnell-Newburg Outstanding Speech Educator

Kevin Hosbond is always thinking BEYOND the box. He is articulate, wise, visionary, open-minded, and relevant in his forethought and insight. He has been a leader holding many statewide positions for the IHSSA including an officer, a presenter, a mentor, and a contest manager. Too, Kevin has been instrumental in leading the IHSSA forward as the Association sought new methods of scheduling. Additionally, his enhanced interpersonal skills allow him to instantaneously and positively create a permissive environment and immediate rapport with all whom he encounters. His enthusiasm, passion, and diligence for speech education is felt by all in his willingness to always say "YES and" when called upon for service to the IHSSA.



Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Hosbond 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: Champion WDM Valley
over Iowa City West**

**POLICY: Champion: Iowa City-City
over Des Moines Roosevelt**

**PUBLIC FORUM GALLIGAN:
Champion: Grinnell-Newburg CLOSE OUT**

**PUBLIC FORUM RIGGLEMAN:
Champion Iowa City West
over Johnston**

STUDENT CONGRESS

Champion: Dresden Fishback, Burlington

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

2nd Runner-up: Hailey Schneider, Okoboji/Spencer

3rd Runner-up: James Foo, Johnston

**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

Sam Juhl, Des Moines East

Spencer Waugh, Simpson College

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

**For more complete results of the 2026 State Debate
Tournament, please go to the IHSSA web site at
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.

ALEX HALVERSON

NW: Spencer

Large Group Speech had a lasting impact on me as a student. I am thrilled to be part of a team that continues to have that positive impact on current and future students through the IHSSA.



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!

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!



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



2026 TENTATIVE LARGE GROUP CRITICS

**CHORAL READING: Brad Nesbitt,
IHSSA Hall of Fame**

**ENSEMBLE ACTING: Alexis Davis,
The Pyramid Theatre**

**GROUP IMPROVISATION: Alex Wendel,
Iowa Stage Theatre Company**

**MUSICAL THEATRE: Karoline Myers,
Des Moines Performing Arts**

**ONE ACT: Davida Williams,
Iowa Stage Theatre Company**

**READERS THEATRE: Jennifer Nostrala,
Simpson College**

SHORT FILM: Don Hall, LA

**SOLO/GROUP MIME: Josh Bodden,
Ballet Des Moines**

**TELEVISION NEWSCASTING/RADIO: Olivia Tyler,
KCCI, Channel 8**

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 9 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 9th.

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 2026

LG All-State Program Work : THURSDAY, February 12, 12:00 PM NOON
(Be sure to read if you have groups who make All-State)

DUE: THURSDAY, February 12, 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. 12, 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 must read: All-State Group Names



The text in the e-mail must 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 2 last NAMES OF STUDENTS ONLY- No "team" names

GREAT SCHOOL - Taylor Anderson, Pam Wymer (c- Gary Ross)

NEW THIS YEAR!

RADIO/SHORT FILM/TV 2026

All RADIO/SHORT FILM/TV entries at Large Group All-State Festival will be submitted via a Google Form from the IHSSA.

1. Make a PUBLIC VIEWABLE Youtube link.
2. Share it with the correct SHORT FILM or RADIO/TV Google Form.
3. You will not need to bring your own projector/speakers.
4. You will receive the link from the IHSSA State office to upload.
5. **DUE DATE: Monday, February 16 at 3:30**
6. Please test your link and make sure it is PUBLIC VIEWABLE.
7. SHORT FILM will be in BENTON AUDITORIUM.
8. RADIO/TV is also in SCHEMAN.



MIME/2026

GROUP MIME/SOLO MIME will be in Sukup Endzone, directly south of Jack Trice Stadium. The same shuttle bus that runs from Scheman to the Alumni Building will also be available for transport to Sukup.

4-YEAR ALL STATERS/2026

Use the IHSSA Google Form to submit your SENIOR, Large Group Festival ALL-STATERS! **Due Thursday, February 12, 12:00 NOON.**

COACHES/2026

Coaches are reminded to sit on the MAIN LEVEL of CY Stephens during Closing Ceremonies. LIVE streaming is available for spectators at Benton Auditorium in Scheman.

742

TICKET ALL-STATE FESTIVAL INFO

742



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/green ribbons 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.



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THE IOWA
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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.

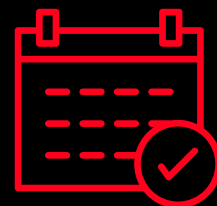


NOTES



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. 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.](#)

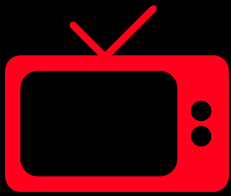
MORE notes

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.

COACH REMINDER: Please complete a "JUDGE EVALUATION FORM" for each of your judges.
THANK YOU! IHSSA JUDGE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

1. Begin by going to www.ihssa.org
2. Click on "Online Registration" on the right of your screen.
3. Then, continue to log in as you would normally do to register.
4. Click on "Judge Evaluation Forms" at the bottom of the IHSSA Online Forms page.
5. Next, click on "Continue to Evaluation Form".
6. Complete "Judge Evaluation Form" and finally, click submit. (Use the "List of Judges" on the back side of this sheet if you need assistance with spelling.) Complete a separate evaluation for each of the judges.

WELLS RIVER ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Online Forms

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: 3 Entries Acting: 3 Entries.

NEW THIS YEAR: Each school is only allowed 3 Musical Theatre entries and 3 Acting entries. In Musical Theatre, the Roomchair will give the intro information and the performer will then start into their selection. The student will **NEVER** give an intro in musical theatre!

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.



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.



GOT ??'s?



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

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

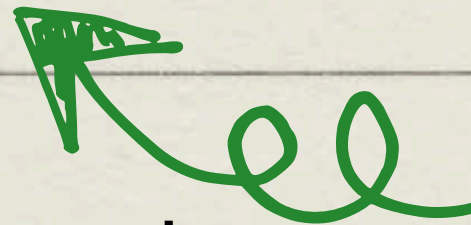


Thank you CARRIE TINKHAM, Coach at Large, for providing helpful guide and video! .

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 11, 2026

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:

District IE: February 12, 2026

State IE: March 4, 2026



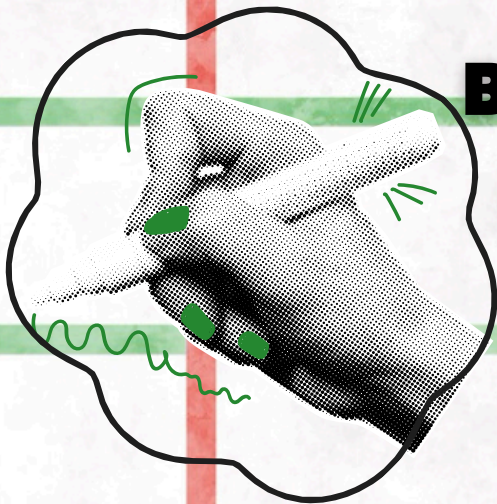
Special requests after these deadlines will only be accepted on an emergency basis. Email requests or phone messages will not be honored. You must speak directly to Stacy Hansen, IHSSA Executive Director. Contest Managers will not accept special requests. ACT/SAT testing is not a special request. Thanks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



Behind the Comment Sheet: IHSSA JUDGE SPOTLIGHT

The IHSSA Judge Certification Committee meets throughout the year to assist in policies for certification procedures. They also aid in judge evaluations and plan workshops as well as clinics. The JC Committee would like to offer special recognition to these superior judges!

BELINDA DEBOLT

As an IHSSA Judge, Belinda most enjoys the incredible talent in the IHSSA students. She is always amazed at the way they present themselves, and knows how hard they and their coaches work to be so successful. Belinda participated in high school speech and community theatre where she found her people. Both of Belinda's children were active in the fine arts. When they graduated, she felt it was her turn to contribute to IHSSA. Belinda has never regretted getting up at a quarter past dark and traveling frosty roads to see the students perform. Belinda is involved with her local community theatre. She is currently on the Southwest Iowa Theatre Group (SWITG) Board.



PAYTON JAEGER

Payton enjoys all the people who genuinely share the same mission of the IHSSA! She admires every school, judge, and coach that she's encountered. She respects their excitement and dedication to helping facilitate students and their passions. Payton loves being around others who are as excited as she is to help provide a platform for students to do their best! Payton shares that "I wanted to become a judge because I did speech all 4 years of high school and I found my voice that I have today through doing speech. Without speech I would not be the person I am today!" She reminds students to "Take a breath and believe in yourself that you know your piece! Outside of speech, Payton's love for medicine are an anchor for her as she will med school in the fall.

TERRI KNIPPER

Terri absolutely loves the IHSSA students and the passion they bring to the events. As a judge for the past 20 years, Terri loves that being at speech contests brings back many wonderful memories for her own high school speech experiences. She enjoys seeing the creativity students bring to the selections they choose. Terri participated in Acting, Mime, Poetry, and Expository Address. Terri is a Special Education Consultant shares that "speech helped me to overcome a lot of fears in speaking in front of people." Terri always find time to kick back with friends and ride horseback through the trails.



2026 SPONTANEOUS SPEAKING AREAS

These 10 areas will produce the questions for the 2026 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.**



WHERE do I go for contest?

LG DISTRICT SITE ASSIGNMENTS: can be found at CONTESTS/LG
IE DISTRICT SITE ASSIGNMENTS: will be released in CONTESTS/IE.

WHEN do I register for contest?



Register **AFTER** Contest Sites are posted. **District LG Registration is now open. IE Registration is now open.**



WHERE will I register for contest?

You will register online at ihssa.org using your secure login/password. Contact the IHSSA Office if you need login info.



Contest Sites 26

NORTHWEST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Manson NW Webster
Spencer
Storm Lake

LARGE GROUP STATE

Cherokee Washington

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Kuemper Catholic
Newell-Fonda
Sioux City North

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Denison

NORTHEAST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Cedar Falls
Dubuque Senior
Mason City

LARGE GROUP STATE

Waterloo West

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Decorah
Forest City
Postville

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Maquoketa Valley

SOUTHWEST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Creston
Des Moines Hoover
Lewis Central
Mount Ayr

LARGE GROUP STATE

West Des Moines Valley

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Atlantic
Bondurant-Farrar
East Union
Johnston

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson

SOUTHEAST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Centerville
Monticello
Pella
Wapello

LARGE GROUP STATE

Clear Creek Amana

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Fairfield
Lisbon
Montezuma
PCM

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Vinton-Shellsburg

STATE DEBATE:
ANKENY DMACC CAMPUS

LG.GROUP ALL STATE FESTIVAL:
IOWA STATE

IE All STATE FESTIVAL:
UNI

INTRODUCING

IHSSA



VIDEOCASTING



THE NEW EXPERIMENTAL
IE CATEGORY

[CLICK HERE FOR RULES](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR COMMENT SHEET](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR TUTORIAL](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR EXAMPLE 1](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR EXAMPLE 2](#)



IHSSA + YOU



IHSSA DATES FOR 2025-2026

AUGUST 16, 2025 - JUDGES / COACHES WORKSHOP, VIRTUAL

**OCTOBER 10/11, 2025 - IHSSA COACHES CONVENTION
GATEWAY HOTEL, AMES**

**JANUARY 9/10, 2026 - STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT,
DMACC, ANKENY**

JANUARY 24, 2026 - DISTRICT LARGE GROUP CONTEST

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 - STATE LARGE GROUP CONTEST

**FEBRUARY 21, 2026 - ALL-STATE FESTIVAL LARGE GROUP
IOWA STATE CENTER, AMES**

FEBRUARY 28, 2026 - DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

MARCH 14, 2026 - STATE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

**MARCH 30, 2026 - 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!

POST FOR ALL!

