



2024-2025 Pennsylvania Policies and Guidelines for POETRY OUT LOUD Competition

- Each participating school district/community group must be given the opportunity to send ONE student to the regional competition. *Runners up should be prepared to participate in the competition in case the winner is unable to do so.*
- [Poetry Out Loud](#) is designed for high school students, which is typically grades 9 through 12. All 9th - 12th grade students ARE eligible to participate in POL whether they are in a Junior or Senior High School. 8th grade students may be included if they are doing 9th grade coursework in the classrooms that are conducting the program. Individual students may participate independently if their school is not holding a competition.
- **Community Groups** such as scouts, local arts councils, homeschoolers, etc. are permitted to implement their own POL competitions and send their top winner to the regional competition. Students participating in these community events may only be eligible for regional and state contests if their school district is NOT participating in POL.
- *Schools and Community Groups should hold a competition of at least two students to select their champion.*
- Each student must be prepared to recite three poems for memory at the regional competition. Depending on the number of participants, judges will hear at least two of those poems (eg. if there are nine or fewer participants, judges will hear all three recitations of the participating students; if there are 10 or more participants, the judges will hear two poems of all students, and the third poem of 40% of the students in a final round).
- Poem selection for regional, state, and national finals: **A) one of the three poems must be pre-20th century and B) one of the three poems must be under 25 lines in length.** Both requirements are made to encourage students to look more broadly at the poems available, and to encourage them to consider choosing classic poems as well as those that do not inspire a long, dramatic interpretation. **One poem may satisfy both criteria.** “Filtered” categories are on the POL website anthology to help students find poems that meet these criteria. *Search for eligible poems* using [POL’s online anthology](#) which provides search options for poems, poets, and/or collections. Students may also recite poems found in the Poetry Out Loud Print Anthology Poems. The Print Anthology and Master Anthology of Poems may be found on [ArtsPath POL webpage](#) where these and all of our other POL documents and forms are posted.
- Some poems require streaming permissions. That list and a guide to securing permission(s) are included on the ArtsPath POL page. ArtsPath will NOT be streaming nor broadcasting our regional competition but be aware that PA Council on the Arts does record and broadcast the state competition at a later date on PCNTV (PA Cable Network).

ArtsPath at Indiana University of Pennsylvania Regional Poetry Out Loud Recitation Competition Information

- Be sure to **submit your school Registration Form** to Jeff Wacker at jwacker@iup.edu by **January 10, 2025** so that we can process your registration, keep you informed, and communicate with the NEA/POL.
- In order to participate in the regional competition, **you MUST register your WINNING student with ArtsPath no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 27, 2025, by emailing their bio, headshot photo, poem selections, and the order of recitation.**
- The ArtsPath regional competition will be held on **Monday, February 3, 2025** (*Snow date is Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025*).