

**POETRY OUT LOUD**



**20 YEARS**



October 18, 2024

Dear Educator,

It's hard to believe, but this year is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the most successful program in the history of the National Endowment for the Arts, [Poetry Out Loud](#)!

If you haven't yet participated in Poetry Out Loud, as so many schools and students have over the program's history, jumping in on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be a terrific time to get started and experience the power of spoken words in poetry.

The program uses a pyramid structure that starts in the classroom with students advancing to a school competition to determine a school champion, followed by regional and state competitions, and then a national competition. There are cash prizes at both the state and national levels.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation, ArtsPath at Indiana University of Pennsylvania invites you and your school's participation in the **Poetry Out Loud** program, taking place again in high schools throughout Pennsylvania this coming school year.

All the necessary materials are available to view or download at the excellent [POL website](#) and if you have any questions about the program, running it, etc., simply contact me at either 724-357-4565 or at [jwacker@iup.edu](mailto:jwacker@iup.edu). I look forward to your school participating in this excellent and time-tested program!

Sincerely,



Jeff Wacker, Coordinator  
Arts-in-Education Services  
The Lively Arts | ArtsPath  
IUP Community Music School



Poetry Out Loud 2024-2025

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline – January 10, 2025



Please submit ONE registration form per school (use second page for more than four participating teachers). This form should be completed and submitted by the School Project Director/Liaison.

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

→ POL School Project Director/Liaison: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

→ School Principal: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

→  (check) YES! Our school intends to participate in the Poetry Out Loud Project.

NEA guidelines require multi-classroom participation in individual school competitions. Please indicate those who will participate in your school on the chart below. (You may copy this sheet to indicate names of additional teachers. We welcome as many participating classrooms as are interested.)

→ The classes participating will be (please check all those that apply):

- Language Arts/English  Creative Writing  Theater/Drama  Speech  Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Table with 5 columns: Teacher Name, Email Address, Grade Level, # Of Students. Rows 1-4 for individual teachers, and a final row for 'TOTAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING FROM OUR SCHOOL'.

Access Needs:

If you have a disability and require accommodation to fully participate, please indicate accommodations required: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions?

Please mail, scan/email, or fax this registration form to:

Jeff Wacker, POL Coordinator
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
202 Performing Arts Center
403 South Eleventh Street
Indiana, Pa 15705-1008
(724) 357-7899 (Fax)
jwacker@iup.edu

Contact:
Jeff Wacker – jwacker@iup.edu
(724) 357-4565

## Additional Teachers

	Teacher Name	Email Address	Grade Level	# Of Students
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				



A partnership of  
National Endowment for the Arts and  
Poetry Foundation



*Building stronger  
communities  
takes creativity.*

*Poetry Out Loud is made possible in Pennsylvania through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. The PCA is funded by the citizens of Pennsylvania through an annual legislative appropriation and administered locally by ArtsPath through the College of Arts, Humanities, Media, and Public Affairs at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is additionally supported by the national Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*



## Poetry Out Loud 2024-2025 *Timeline*

### ***Now – Jan 2025***

All materials are free and available on-line at [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org). The POL website is always being updated with additional poems – check back regularly!

### ***Oct 2024 – Jan 2025***

Contact is made with teachers and schools about implementing POL by ArtsPath at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts' regional Arts in Education Partner for Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Indiana, and Jefferson counties, and the DuBois Area SD.

Teachers (English, Drama, Speech, Gifted, Librarians, etc.) execute POL in their classrooms.

Classroom and School Finals take place.

### ***January 10, 2025***

Registration deadline for schools/organizations participating in POL; email Reg Form to [jwacker@iup.edu](mailto:jwacker@iup.edu).

### ***\*February 3, 2025***

ArtsPath Regional Finals, Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The competition will be held in either the Upper Grand Lobby of the Performing Arts Center, or Gorell Recital Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Sutton Hall.

***\*Alternate snow date is February 5, 2024***

### ***March 3, 2025***

Pennsylvania State Finals: State Museum, Harrisburg, PA

### ***May 5-7, 2025***

National Finals: Washington, D.C.



## 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](mailto: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*).