# PTA Council of Baltimore County's Reflections Guide

**Entries Due to PTA Council by December 4, 2026**

**2026-27 Theme: What My Culture Means to Me**

**Ceremony: Sunday, March 14, 2026, 2-4pm location TBD**

## Free State PTA 2026-27 Reflections Handbook:

https://www.fspta.org/reflections

## Steps to Take and Key Info:

**Register:** https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26-27ReflectionsReg

**Find your National PTA ID:** https://member.pta.org/Run-Your-PTA/Find-a-PTA

**Age Divisions:** Accessible Arts (all grades); Primary (PreK – 2); Intermediate (3-5); Middle School (6-8); High School (9-12)

**Arts Categories and Accepted Formats:**

- **Dance Choreography** entries must be submitted in MP4, MOV, or AVI format.
- **Film Production** entries must be submitted in MP4, MOV, or AVI format.
- **Literature** must be submitted in PDF format.
- **Music Composition** entries must be submitted in MP3 or WAV format. Scores (as required) must be submitted in PDF format.
- **Photography** entries must be submitted in JPEG, JPG or PNG format.
- **Visual Arts** entries must be submitted in JPEG, JPG or PNG format. **Visual Arts is the most competitive category.**

## Plan Your Program:

- Establish a timeline for your Reflection Program; **Council must receive entries by 12/4/26.**
- **PTA Council will accept your unit's top three (3) winning entries in each arts category and age division.**
- Promote the program to your community.
- Talk to teachers at your school about integrating Reflections into their curriculum.
- Distribute the rules, deadlines, and entry forms to participants.
- Collect the students' entries for judging.
- Organize and host the judging.
- Celebrate the winners (or you can wait until after Council or State judging to celebrate).
- Submit winning entries and required forms to PTA Council by 12/4/26.

# Free State PTA Good Standing Requirements:

For students' entries to be accepted by Free State PTA, units need to meet the following four Standards of Affiliation by January 27, 2027. Please let us know if you need help!

- Remit national and state dues to Free State PTA by the dates designated.
- Pay your insurance premium.
- Submit contact information for all elected officers to Free State PTA within two (2) weeks of election or appointment. *(This means updating info in Givebacks.)*
- Submit updated and approved bylaws for review by Free State PTA every three (3) years.

# PTA Council Submission & Judging Details:

- ***Chairs will take information from the original entry forms submitted to them (the 2-page form consisting of the entry form itself and the artist statement) and enter the information into PTA Council's submission form. Chairs will also upload artwork into the form:*** ***Reflections Student Entry Form- 2026-2027 - Google Forms***
- Artist statements must communicate the artist's inspiration for the work and how it relates to the theme. **Judges at all levels (County, State, National) take this seriously!**
- Statements must describe the content and be at least 10 words but not exceed 100 words.
- See Page 18 of the Free State PTA Reflections Handbook for judging details.
- **"Untitled" is not considered a title.**
- A student may submit entries in more than one arts category and/or multiple entries in a single arts category.
- A student at a school with a PTA not hosting the program may submit work through a PTA that is hosting the program.
- In addition to submitting entries via our submission form, chairs must email to reflections@bcptacouncil.org the two (2) forms found at www.fspta.org/reflections:

- Local/Council Participation Form (Appendix 8)
- Local/Council Entrants List (Appendix 9)

# Post-Submission Details:

- **PLEASE** save the original artwork for display at our Sunday, March 14th ceremony! This mainly applies to Visual Arts entries, but having high-quality/original Photography entries would help us.
- PTA Council must submit units' entries to Free State PTA at the end of January. We'll announce winners after that.
- PTA Council will select three (3) winners in each Arts Category and Age Division: Outstanding Interpretation; Award of Excellence; and Award of Merit.
- Free State PTA will announce their winners in mid-March.