



Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League 2026-2027 One-Act Play Competition (OAP)

One-Act Play (OAP) Competition will allow students to experience live theatre in a real stage setting with a full cast and crew. The OAP contest will foster appreciation for good acting, good directing and good theatre. Plays will involve full sets including props, makeup, costumes and will be open to the public.

Competition Rules:

1. Plays will be cuttings of a single source from a play, or screen play adapted to the stage. Offensive words will be cut or edited so as not to undermine the values of the community. The ISBN of the full play must be available to the site manager on request. A copy of each script must be sent to the TCSAAL for approval prior to contest along with a list of all musical pieces the play director plans to use in the play. Failure to seek TCSAAL approval of script and music before the contest will result in disqualification. Failure to act in accordance with TCSAAL recommendations will result in disqualification. **Final script cuttings are due no less than one month prior to the competition date**, but TCSAAL encourages directors to submit the play script as soon as possible for approval.
2. The selections may be humorous or serious works.
3. The cuttings of plays should maintain the author's written intent as well as the general spirit and message the author intended to portray.
4. Schools are required to submit a *TCSAAL One-Act Play Registration Form* no later than two (2) weeks prior to the competition date. This form serves to indicate the title of piece, author, cast, and crew. Forms must be filled out entirely and must be signed prior to submission by a campus administrator. Please be sure to check spelling as this is the information we will use in the program.
5. Each play will last no longer than 40 minutes for high school and 30 minutes for 6th – 8th grade. Each play should be cut accordingly. There is no minimum time required. Each school will be given 5 minutes to assemble their set, and 5 minutes to take down. Assembly and take down must be performed by cast and crew only, faculty cannot assist. The cast and crew should develop an organized, choreographed system that allows them to meet the time specifications for set assembly and take down. Time will be kept by an authorized time keeper. Violation of the time limitations will result in being ranked last in the contest. It is poor etiquette to have talking amongst crew and cast members during set assembly and take down times and may result in disqualification.
6. Schools who are not properly gathered and ready in time for their set assembly may be subject to disqualification.
7. No set pieces will be provided by TCSAAL or the hosting facility. All set pieces are required to be provided by the cast and crew's respective school, and must fit entirely within a 10'x10'x10' space both prior to set assembly and following take down. Failure to meet these requirements may result in disqualification.
8. The actors are allowed to use props. The props should not be used in a profound or suggestive manner. A list of all props that the director plans to use should be sent to the TCSAAL for approval prior to the contest. Failure to seek TCSAAL approval for props may result in disqualification.

9. Props must be within the space provided for the respective school's set pieces, unless it is carried by or attached to the costume of one (1) cast member. Any pieces requiring two or more cast members to support and/or lift cannot serve as a prop and will be deemed a set piece, and thereby must be within the space provided for the respective school's set pieces. A prop table is to be provided by the hosting facility, located stage left.
10. Play crews are expected to utilize sound and lighting technology; however, such is not scored in the rubric. In addition, TCSAAL will provide as best information as possible to the play director in regards to sound and/or lighting equipment provided by the hosting theater, but cannot make guarantees in regards to functionality or quality of the equipment provided.
11. TCSAAL cannot guarantee any rehearsal, warm-up, or setup time with the facility and/or equipment.
12. All spectators, including school faculty, parents, and other attendees not listed on the official *TCSAAL One-Act Play Registration Form* submitted to TCSAAL will be charged \$10 admission.
 1. Exception: Per the TCSAAL Handbook, two (2) administrator passes will be given to each participating school, granting free admission for up to two (2) administrators.
13. Students should not be wandering around the halls, outside the building etc. It is advised that the students bring the appropriate entertainment to entertain themselves. (Books, mp3 players, board games, etc.) It will be the schools' authorized supervisor's job to enforce these rules. Failure to adequately enforce these rules dealing with contest etiquette could result in disqualification or systematic ranking down of the team.
14. Failure on behalf of a school's cast, crew, faculty, or spectators to act in a manner that is in accordance with the Rules and Guidelines set forth within the *TCSAAL Handbook*, as determined solely by TCSAAL Staff and/or Administration, may result in penalties including but not limited to, disqualification from the One Act Play Competition. Please see the *TCSAAL Handbook* for additional details regarding potential repercussions for violations.
15. In addition, play performances are expected to be appropriate for youth competition and maintain appropriate decorum for contemporary competition, as determined by TCSAAL staff. Failure to perform accordingly may result in repercussions as detailed in the *TCSAAL Handbook*.

Competition Format

1. The TCSAAL OAP Competition will take place over multiple rounds, culminating with the State Competition that takes place in the greater Austin area.
 1. Exception: In the event that less than 5 plays are registered for one age-grouping statewide, TCSAAL may opt to skip the Regional Rounds and host only a State Competition.
2. In the event there is more than one member school participating in any given age group Regional Qualifier Rounds will take place in their respective regions, and will be hosted by a participating TCSAAL member school with adequate facilities as determined by TCSAAL with the assistance of the respective Regional Representative.
3. The top ranking play from each Regional Qualifier Competition, as determined by the designated Judge, will advance to the State Competition.
4. Regional Qualifier rounds will ideally consist of 4 entries, with a maximum of 5 entries. In the event that the number of regional entries exceeds 5 for any particular region, the entries will be split geographically and schools will then participate in an Area Qualifier.

- a. Area Qualifier rounds will take place in their respective area, and will be hosted by a participating TCSAAL member school with adequate facilities as determined by TCSAAL with the assistance of the respective Regional Representative.
 - b. Area Qualifier rounds will ideally consist of 4 entries, with a maximum of 5 entries.
 - c. The top ranking play from each Area Qualifier Competition, as determined by the designated Judge, will advance to the Regional Qualifier Competition.
5. In the unlikely event that the number of regional entries exceeds the total number of entries permitted with 5 Area Qualifier Competitions, TCSAAL will add additional rounds as necessary and schools will be informed of any changes to competition format.
6. TCSAAL will split teams into Regions after the registration deadline.

Eligibility and Additional Rules Regarding Cast & Crew

1. All participants must abide by eligibility rules set forth in the *TCSAAL Handbook*.
2. Total number of cast members must be limited to no more than 15 students.
3. Total number of crew members must be limited to no more than 5 students.
4. Each crew must have one student assigned to the following roles and said student should be able to perform the role's respective tasks independent of other cast, crew, or staff:
 - a. Stage Manager
 - b. Lighting Technician
 - c. Sound Technician
5. Directors or respective school staff is prohibited from coaching or assisting the students in any manner during the production of their play, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Lighting and Sound Cues
 - b. Setup and Takedown of Set
 - c. Adhering to Time Restrictions
 Violations of this rule may result in disqualification.
6. While traditional TCSAAL Competition Rules allow for students to perform beyond their competition grouping (i.e. an 8th Grader participating on a high school OAP cast), such will be prohibited for cast-roles.
 - i. In effort to provide the most equitable competition environment, schools with younger students are no longer eligible to utilize students in grades beneath the designated range as determined within the *TCSAAL Handbook* in cast or performance roles within the One-Act Play competition. All cast roles, therefore, should be assigned based on the following criteria in terms of grade level:
 1. 6th-8th Grade entries should not utilize students 5th grade or beneath for any cast-member or performance role.
 2. 9th-12th Grade entries should not utilize students 8th grade or beneath for any cast-member or performance role.
 3. NOTE: Consistent with UIL, students younger than their respective peers within their grade level(i.e. a student-performer who is one or more grade-levels ahead of students his/her respective age) would still be eligible.
 4. NOTE: This rule may be appealed if the following conditions are all true.
 - a. Student is only one grade beneath the cutoff(i.e. 5th or 8th)
 - b. Student is also too old per TCSAAL age restrictions to participate in the younger competition grouping.

- c. Student is of appropriate age to participate in the older competition grouping as per TCSAAL age-restrictions.
5. This rule does not apply to any crew position – younger crew members can still help to facilitate any tech or crew position for a campus performance.
7. During setup and takedown of sets, directors and/or any other staff will not be permitted on stage.
8. Directors, cast members, and respective school staff is prohibited from contacting the appointed Judge prior to the day of competition.
On the day of competition, directors, cast members, and respective school staff are not to communicate with the appointed judge prior to their performance. Violations of this rule may result in disqualification.

Judging

See OAP scoring rubric. In the event of a tie, the head judge will reconvene to determine ranking.

Awards

A trophy will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd. ranking entries at the state level (in each age group) and medals will be awarded to all Cast and Crew individuals. Individual achievement in OAP will be recognized with certificates of recognition as well.

Per the Judge's discretion, individual awards will be awarded as follows:

1. The Judge will award one (1) Best Actor and one (1) Best Actress award to the actor he/she feels is deserving. These two awards will be medals instead of certificates at state.
2. The Judge may award up to ten (10) All-Star Cast awards per his/her discretion. These awards are ranked secondary in honors to the Best Actor and Best Actress awards. There is no minimum number of All-Star Cast awards that will be given.
3. The Judge may award up to ten (10) Honorable Mention awards per his/her discretion. These awards are ranked tertiary in honors to the Best Actor and Best Actress awards. There is no minimum number of Honorable Mention awards that will be given.
4. The Judge will award one (1) school Best Light Technician award per his/her discretion.
5. The Judge will award one (1) school Best Sound Technician award per his/her discretion.
6. The TCSAAL Designated Time Keeper, as discussed in Competition Rule #5, will award one (1) school Best Overall Crew award per his/her discretion.