



North Carolina Poetry Out Loud Teacher Timeline 2017-2018 DETAILED

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Poetry Out Loud?

Poetry Out Loud is a national competition that focuses on poetry memorization and recitation. It is a pyramid-style competition, which means that there are a series of competitions:

- Students compete at the classroom level.
- Classroom winners compete at the school level.
- School winners compete at the district level.
- District winners compete at the state level in a semi-finals and finals competition in Greensboro.
- The state winner travels to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national final.

You can find more information on the [national Poetry Out Website here](#).

How do I register to participate in the Poetry Out Loud Competition?

Registration launches in mid-August, and you can do it on the Triad Stage website (triadstage.org/learning). You can access this year's link by clicking [HERE](#). You DO NOT need to know how many students are participating from your school in order to register. We encourage you to register early so you can have all the available information as you are working toward a competition.

What happens after I register?

After you register, the State Coordinator will ship out the requested number of Teacher Toolkit packets to your school. You should receive them within a week. [You can also access the Teacher Toolkit online](#).

Does Poetry Out Loud have to be incorporated into classroom curriculum, or can it be an extracurricular activity?

It is our goal that the POL program be incorporated into regular curriculum as much as possible. Fortunately, the national competition provides a host of resources to align the competition with your English/Language Arts or Theatre [curriculum and standards](#). If you have further questions about this, please contact State Coordinator Lauren Smith at lauren@triadstage.org.

How do I incorporate Poetry Out Loud into my classroom curriculum?

The national competition has a wealth of [lesson plans](#) and other resources you can use to get you started.

What if I'm the only teacher in my school participating?

That's fine! Many schools in North Carolina operate this way. If you are the only teacher in your building, your classroom winner will be the default winner for your school, and will advance to the district competition.

What if I'm the only school in my district participating?

Not a problem, either! If you are the only high school in your district, or the only school participating in your district, your school winner will automatically advance to the state semi-finals in Greensboro.

I'm with a private or a charter school. Can I still participate?

Yes. Similarly to a district that only has one high school, your school will constitute your own "district," meaning that your school winner will automatically advance to the state semi-finals in Greensboro.

Is the program accessible for students with disabilities?

Yes! This is a high priority for Poetry Out Loud. You can find more information about the national competition and accessibility [here](#).

I'm the parent of a homeschooled student. Can they participate?

Yes. We accept school registration, not individual registration, so you will need to contact a local school and arrange for your student to compete in the school's competition (at the school level, likely not the classroom level). If your student is the winner from that school, they can advance to the district competition, and if they win the district competition, they can advance to the state semi-finals. In this case, the homeschooled student and the top student from the district will both advance to the state semi-final competition.

How do I figure out who my district coordinator is?

If you are uncertain who your district coordinator is (or if there are any other schools participating from your district), please contact State Coordinator Lauren Smith at lauren@triadstage.org.

Why would I need to figure out who my district coordinator is?

Your district coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the district-level competition if more than one school from your district is participating. They will also be responsible for sending your district winner to the state coordinator so that student and their family can receive information regarding the state semi-finals and finals.

As a Lead Teacher or a District Coordinator, what do I need to do?

If you are a lead teacher for your school, you will be responsible for organizing the school competition (including scheduling the competition and recruiting judges for the competition), as well as passing along your school winner to your district coordinator.

If you are a district coordinator, you will be responsible for organizing your district's competition (including scheduling and recruiting judges for the competition), as well as making sure that your district's winner is submitted to

What deadlines do I need to be aware of?

- December 1st: registration deadline for any participating schools
- January 5th: deadline for submitting classroom winner information to school lead teacher
- January 12th: deadline for submitting school winners to district coordinator
- January 26th: deadline for submitting district winner to NC state coordinator
- March 3rd: North Carolina state semi-finals and finals in Greensboro at Triad Stage
- April 23rd-April 26th: National semi-finals and finals in Washington, D.C.

What if I have other questions that aren't on this list?

You are welcome to contact state coordinator Lauren Smith at lauren@triadstage.org or 336.274.0067, ext 222.