

2026 VSBA High School Student Video Contest

The Virginia School Boards Association is asking high school students to express their thoughts and ideas around the theme “Rooted in Public Education” through our 15th annual student video contest. Students can choose one of three topics for this year’s video contest:

- Rooted in Learning
- Public Education in Action
- Our School, Our Community, Our Future

Each school division is invited to submit one 30-second video that conveys the contest theme and chosen category. The top video selected for each category will be recognized at the 2026 VSBA Annual Convention.

Criteria

Videos will be judged on how well they address the topic, the quality of the production, and the creativity of the video. No professional assistance can be provided to produce the video. The format of the video is up to the students. Videos can be a commercial, news broadcast, music video, etc. Please note that only videos created by public high school students are eligible for this contest. No copyrighted materials may be used in videos.

Submission Guidelines

To enter the contest, complete the three steps below.

REMINDER: Only ONE submission may be sent per school division. The submission representing each division must be received by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, October 2, 2026. Once the contest closes, our judges will select the top video for each category, which will be announced at the VSBA Annual Convention. By submitting a video, you understand that the use of the submission is completely at the discretion of VSBA.

Step 1: Make a video!

Make a 30-second video about the contest topic you chose centered around “Rooted in Public Education.”

Step 2: Upload your video to the internet

Upload your video to your video-sharing site, such as your YouTube or Google Drive account. Please ensure the link is available for VSBA to review. Any link that is not made for public viewing by the deadline will be disqualified.

Step 3: Submit your video

A school division representative must submit the online survey form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2026StudentVideo>

Entries must be received by Friday, October 2, 2026, for the video to be included in the judging. Please make sure that no copyrighted materials are used in your video.

Awards

As determined by the judges, the top three awards will be announced at the VSBA Annual Convention. Only one physical award is given to the first place winner. All students in the top three will receive a certificate.

Judging

Independent media and education professionals will serve as judges for the contest.

Student Release Form

All students that are featured in the video (excluding wide shots of crowds) and also working on the video (i.e., editing, filming, etc.) must have their parent/guardian sign a VSBA Student Video Contest Participant Release Form. The form can be found on the second page of this flyer. Submissions will not be considered if there is not a release form attached to the online submission for each participating student.

Need more information?

Contact Bella Corbo at bella@vsba.org or by calling 434-295-8722 ext. 2.

Thank you to our sponsor:



****This contest is open to all public high school students in the Commonwealth as long as their school board is a current member of the Virginia School Boards Association****



VSBA High School Student Video Contest Parent/Legal Guardian Media Release Form

I, the undersigned parent or legal guardian of the student named above, grant permission for my student to participate in the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) High School Student Video Contest and to submit an original video entry for consideration.

Student Information

Student Name _____ **School Division** _____

Permission Granted

I understand that my student's contest submission may include my student's name, image, likeness, voice, appearance, recorded performances, statements, and other identifying information.

I hereby grant to the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), its employees, representatives, agents, and designees, the unrestricted, irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide, and royalty-free right to:

- Use, reproduce, publish, distribute, display, exhibit, transmit, broadcast, and share my student's submitted video and any excerpts thereof;
- Record, photograph, and otherwise capture my student's image, likeness, voice, and appearance in connection with the contest;
- Edit, adapt, crop, modify, combine with other materials, caption, subtitle, or otherwise alter the submitted video and related media;
- Use my student's name, image, likeness, voice, school name, and school division in connection with the submitted video and the promotion of the contest or other VSBA programs and initiatives.

This permission includes, but is not limited to, use in:

Press releases and media outreach; VSBA social media platforms; VSBA website and digital channels; Print and electronic newsletters; Convention and conference presentations; Educational and promotional videos; and Marketing and advertising materials.

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that:

- My student retains ownership of the original video content submitted to the contest.
- Participation in the contest is voluntary
- No compensation will be provided for participation or use of these materials.
- Once the submitted materials have been published, distributed, or shared publicly, VSBA may be unable to control further use or distribution by third parties.
- This release is voluntary and may be revoked in writing at any time, except where materials have already been published or distributed or otherwise used by VSBA.
- VSBA will not knowingly use the materials in a manner that is defamatory or misleading.
- I release and hold harmless the VSBA, its officers, employees, representatives, and agents from any claims arising out of or related to the lawful use of my student's submitted video, image, likeness, voice, or other materials as authorized by this release.

Parent/Legal Guardian Information

Name (Print) _____ **Signature** _____ **Date** _____

Phone Number _____ **Email Address** _____