

# DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS STUDENT EXCELLENCE COMPETITION



OPEN DOORS  
UNLOCK OPPORTUNITY

## DC CHARTER SCHOOLS STUDENT EXCELLENCE COMPETITION CONTEST GUIDELINES

### Contest Theme:

*“What My Charter School Means to Me, My Family and My Community”*

#### Prizes

- **\$5,000 to each school with a First Place Winner in each category**
- **\$1,000:** First Place Winners in each Category
- **\$500:** Second Place Winners in each Category
- **\$250:** Third Place Winners in each Category
- **\$1,000 Spirit Award** to the school with the largest number of attendees at the November 14th Student Excellence Showcase

### Address the contest theme in one of the following categories

#### 1. Essay or Video

**Essays** must be between 100 and 750 words. **Videos** must be between one and five minutes long, and must be filmed and edited by the student. Videos that include footage of school facilities and/or classroom materials are encouraged. Including teachers or fellow students without permission is not permitted.

#### 2. Art or Photography

Students may submit fine art in the form of drawing, painting, sculpture, and still photography. The dimensions must not exceed 30 square inches.

#### 3. Poem, Song, or Rap

Students may submit a poem, song or rap that is original and the sole creation of the student. Poems may be up to 500 words. Songs/rap music must be recorded in the voice of the student and should be between one and four minutes. Songs/raps submissions should include typed lyrics. Re-mixes or covers of previously released works will be disqualified.

### School Eligibility

Any DC Public Charter School that serves students from K-adult is eligible to participate. Each school will determine at its own discretion the best way to engage its school community and will have sole responsibility for selecting the work of its student finalists to submit to competition judges.

Participating schools commit to the following:

- Completion of the online school **Intent to Participate form**
- **Submission of 1 “Finalist” entry to represent your school in each category (3 total Finalists) by October 18, 2019**
- Attendance with each student finalist at the ***Student Excellence Competition Awards Presentation*** on November 14, 2019

## Student Eligibility

- Students must be enrolled at the school for the 2019-2020 school year
- Entries must be solely the work of the student

## Submission

Designated school representatives must submit all student entries electronically. Details will be made available to all registered schools beginning October 1st.

## Students Must Be Present at the November 14th Open Doors Unlock Opportunity Event Student Excellence Showcase

### Attendance

- Students who enter the contest must be present on November 14 for the announcement of the winners at the **Charter School Student Excellence Competition**, which will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW. Free transportation of students from schools to the event will be provided.
- All charter students, faculty and families are encouraged to attend to cheer on all the student and join a **Citywide Call to Action in support of DC Public Charter Schools**.

## Agreement and Acknowledgement

### Schools who elect to participate agree to:

- Receive student submissions and select one entry in each category to submit to the judges;
- Attend with their finalists the presentation of awards at the Charter School Student Excellence Competition on November 14;
- Grant to DCACPS permission to share finalist submissions with the public and press, on social media and in future publications/communications.

### By electing to participate, all schools acknowledge the following

- The school must have the permission of the parents/guardians to submit student work to the contest.
- When the school submits finalists for review, it will be required to attest that permissions and releases have been completed.
- Winning students and schools are solely responsible for any federal, state, or local taxes on winnings.
- The ownership of any submission remains the property of the writer, but entry into the competition constitutes the entrant's permission and consent, without compensation, with or without attribution, reproduce, transmit, post, distribute, adapt, edit, and/or display the submission.
- Judges' decisions are final.

## Judging

A panel of independent judges will review all entries and select three winners in each category. Judges will be selected based on their expertise in education, writing, art and film production, as well as connections to DC communities. Entries will be judged on creativity, personal storytelling, and positive attitude, as well as grade-appropriate spelling and grammar where applicable. Judges are expected to be objective and honorable in their selections.

