

## Advanced Academic Services Austin Independent School District

### Academic Competitions

Austin ISD supports the involvement of our gifted students in numerous programs and organizations that offer to meet the needs of our advanced learners outside the regular school day. The Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students states in section 2.3A (Program Design) that "School Districts, when possible, shall provide out-of-school options relevant to the student's area of strength." Campus participation in such out-of-school options is optional, but encouraged.

The following academic competitions are supported by various departments in the Austin ISD. Participation varies from campus to campus.

Month	Academic Competition
<b>ONGOING</b>	<p><b>Future Problem Solving</b></p> <p>Contact Cyd Rogers at 512-414-6745/6746 for more information 901 Neal Street, Portable A - Austin, Texas 78702 Fax: 512-414-6096</p> <p>The Texas Future Problem Solving Program is an interdisciplinary program, which follows a six-step modification of the creative problem solving process and requires students to use the higher level thinking skills of synthesis, analysis, and evaluation. The challenging materials are designed to motivate students to develop creative, critical, and analytical thinking skills as well as research skills; increase awareness of and interest in the future; develop teamwork skill and improve communication skills; and learn and use problem solving strategies. Students in grades K-12 may participate in four divisions of the program; curricular, community service, and scenario writing.</p>
<b>ONGOING</b>	<p><b>Poetry Society of Texas Student Awards</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/">http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/</a> Rules and instructions for entering the student poetry contests may be located at <a href="http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/pst_student.html">http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/pst_student.html</a>.</p>
<b>ONGOING</b>	<p><b>Economics Challenge</b></p> <p><a href="http://economicschallenge.councilforeconed.org/">http://economicschallenge.councilforeconed.org/</a> The <b>Economics Challenge</b> adds the fun of a competition to make learning economic concepts come alive. Working in teams of four, students compete either in the David Ricardo or Adam Smith division. Winners in each of the four state regions compete for the state championship.</p> <p>Fall Competition: September through December; Spring Competition: February through April</p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>ONGOING</b></p>	<p><b>Stock Market Game</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.stockmarketgame.org/">http://www.stockmarketgame.org/</a></p> <p>The Stock Market Game is an engaging educational program used in classrooms nationwide to teach economics, math, social studies, business, language arts and technology while focusing on the importance of developing real world personal finance skills. Teams of students in grades 4-12 use the SMG simulation to learn the basics of investing as they create and manage an online stock portfolio over 10 weeks. The SMG is more than a game...it is an education for life.</p> <p>Fall Competition: September through December Spring Competition: February through April</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>ONGOING</b></p>	<p><b>Foreign Language Competitions</b></p> <p>Contact 512-414-4212 for more information.</p> <p><u>French</u> -Texas French Symposium (High School only) <a href="http://www.texasfrenchsymposium.org">http://www.texasfrenchsymposium.org</a></p> <p><u>German</u> -Sprachfest Texas State German Competition <a href="http://germancontest.org/state/">http://germancontest.org/state/</a></p> <p><u>Latin</u> -Junior Classical League competitions <a href="http://www.njcl.org">http://www.njcl.org</a> -Certamen (a type of College-Bowl) tournaments - Listserv: <a href="mailto:armadilloclassical@yahoo.com">armadilloclassical@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><u>Spanish</u> -Pan-American Student Forum (variety of academic and other contests) every year in San Antonio <a href="http://www.pasf.com">http://www.pasf.com</a> -The University of Texas at Austin Annual Spanish Poetry Declamation - contact 512-471-4936 for more information.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>ONGOING</b></p>	<p><b>National Language Exams</b></p> <p>Contact 512-414-4212 for more information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spanish <a href="http://www.nationalspanishexam.org">http://www.nationalspanishexam.org</a></li> <li>• German <a href="http://www.aatg.org/content/category/9/32/35/">http://www.aatg.org/content/category/9/32/35/</a></li> <li>• French <a href="http://www.frenchteachers.org/concours">http://www.frenchteachers.org/concours</a></li> </ul> <p>Latin <a href="http://www.nle.org">http://www.nle.org</a></p>

OCT	<p><b>Austin Film Festival's Young Filmmakers Competition</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.austinfilmfestival.com/yfc">http://www.austinfilmfestival.com/yfc</a>  Open only to students ages 13-18 (must include proof of enrollment from your school). Films should be 39 minutes or less. Films will be judged based on narrative strength, strong characters, and filmmaking skill. Shorts can be submitted in the following categories: Narrative, Documentary, or Animation.</p>
OCT	<p><b>Geography Bee</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee">http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee</a>  Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teacher to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic Knowledge.</p>
NOV	<p><b>Patriot's Pen</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmtty.level&amp;did=151">http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmtty.level&amp;did=151</a>  A nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6, 7, and 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. Contestants write a 300-400 word essay based on an annual patriotic theme. Entries due November 1<sup>st</sup>.</p>
DEC	<p><b>Math Counts</b></p> <p><a href="http://mathcounts.org/netcommunity/Page.aspx?pid=195&amp;srcid=-2">http://mathcounts.org/netcommunity/Page.aspx?pid=195&amp;srcid=-2</a>  MathCounts is a nationwide mathematics competition for middle school (targeted at 7th and 8th grade) students. It is conducted on four successive levels: school, chapter, state, and national. The program features innovative problems and problem solving strategies designed to teach higher-order thinking skills. MathCounts is designed not only to recognize student achievement in math, but also to present students with tough competition in order to whet their appetites for math proficiency and mathematics-related career.</p>
JAN	<p><b>C-SPAN Student Cam</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.studentcam.org/index.htm">http://www.studentcam.org/index.htm</a>  StudentCam is open to all middle school students (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) in the United States as individuals, or teams of students. Teams are limited to 3 students. Videos must be the original work of students, however, teachers may provide guidance and critiques.</p>

FEB	<p><b>Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.utexas.edu/world/barbarajordan/">http://www.utexas.edu/world/barbarajordan/</a>  The University of Texas at Austin is pleased to announce their CALL FOR ENTRIES for the Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition - a contest designed to encourage high school students from all backgrounds to research and write histories about the contributions that African Americans have made to their communities throughout Texas. The top three essay winners will receive scholarship awards: \$2,500 for first place; \$1,500 for second place; and, \$1,000 for third place. All students who submit essays receive a certificate of participation. For information, call Deb Duval, (512) 232-7599, or email <a href="mailto:deb_duval@mail.utexas.edu">deb_duval@mail.utexas.edu</a>.</p>
FEB	<p><b>Visual Arts Scholastic Event: Regional Event</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.taesa.org/vase/">http://www.taesa.org/vase/</a>  The Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) has sponsored the Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) since 1994. VASE is the only art event of its kind in the nation. Students are provided the opportunity to bring artworks created in their art classes to a regional event where they are interviewed by a certified juror who evaluates their work based on a standards based rubric and their understanding of the art processes involved in the development of their artwork. Only academically eligible high school students in grades 9-12 enrolled in a Texas public or private school in Texas can participate in VASE.</p>
FEB	<p><b>National History Day</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.nationalhistoryday.org">http://www.nationalhistoryday.org</a>  National History Day aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motivate students through the excitement of competition and through recognition for their work.</li> <li>• Provide students with the opportunity to work with and analyze historical documents and other primary source material</li> <li>• Provide a framework for hands-on, student-centered learning that guides classroom teaching as well as continuous professional development</li> <li>• Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will help students manage and use information effectively now and in the future.</li> <li>• Develop student research and reading skills and to refine student presentation skills in writing, visual projects and performances.</li> <li>• Encourage students to move beyond the classroom and into the community to investigate history</li> <li>• Provide teachers with innovative teaching tools</li> <li>• Assist teachers and schools in meeting educational standards by encouraging student participation in portfolio-building and outcome-based learning activities</li> <li>• Encourage the study of history by guiding students to express themselves creatively through presentations of historical topics in various formats</li> </ul>

FEB	<p><b>Science Fair</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.sciencefest.org">http://www.sciencefest.org</a>  The Austin Energy Regional Science Festival encourages and rewards innovative student research. It also provides scientists, engineers, and other professionals a chance to volunteer in the community.</p>
MAR	<p><b>CyberFair</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.globalschoolnet.org/gsnf">http://www.globalschoolnet.org/gsnf</a>  An award-winning authentic learning program used by schools and youth organizations around the world. Youth conduct research and publish their findings on the Web. Recognition is given to the best projects in each of eight categories. This White House-endorsed program encourages youth to become community ambassadors by working collaboratively and using technology to share what they have learned. Students evaluate each other's projects by using a unique online evaluation tool. Ages 5-19.</p>
MAR	<p><b>Texas Citizen Bee: Regional</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.constitutionbee.org/user">http://www.constitutionbee.org/user</a>  The Texas Citizen Bee is a statewide civic education program and competition which offers teachers and high school students (9th-12th grades) an exciting way to reach and study America's heritage. The students will use the on-line "Study Guide" program created by the Bill of Rights Institute. The guide covers the U.S. Constitution, important documents, people, issues, civic values and skills and a Bill of Rights Institute article/current events category.</p>
MAR	<p><b>Math Pentathlon: Kindergarten - 1st grade</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.mathpentath.org">http://www.mathpentath.org</a>  This motivational program strengthens basic math concepts and skills, aligns with National and State Mathematics Standard, and stimulates creative thinking while developing problem-solving skills. The Math Pentathlon problem solving games provide a highly motivational format for developing and practicing important mathematics concepts and skills. While playing the games, five per level, in cooperative groups, students in grades K-8 strengthen their strategic thinking and critical reasoning abilities. The Math Pentathlon games are supported by community gam nights and spring tournaments. Grades K-7.</p>
APR	<p><b>Oracle ThinkQuest Competitions</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.thinkquest.org/competition/website/rules.html">http://www.thinkquest.org/competition/website/rules.html</a>  Website Competition - Build an educational website. Choose a <a href="#">category</a> and create a website that you will upload to their server. The <a href="#">Evaluation Criteria</a> explains how your site will be scored. Be sure to review the <a href="#">Rules</a>.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APR</b></p>	<p><b>Math Pentathlon: 2 - 3rd grades</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.mathpentath.org">http://www.mathpentath.org</a></p> <p>This motivational program strengthens basic math concepts and skills, aligns with National and State Mathematics Standard, and stimulates creative thinking while developing problem-solving skills. The Math Pentathlon problem solving games provide a highly motivational format for developing and practicing important mathematics concepts and skills. While playing the games, five per level, in cooperative groups, students in grades K-8 strengthen their strategic thinking and critical reasoning abilities. The Math Pentathlon games are supported by community gam nights and spring tournaments. Grades K-7.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APR</b></p>	<p><b>Austin Student Digital Film Festival</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.austinschools.org/filmfest">http://www.austinschools.org/filmfest</a></p> <p>Non-competitive, non-profit film festival open to students and teachers in Texas grades K-12, free to enter and free to attend. The festival accepts films from students and teachers. Selected films will be showcased at the UT Student Union Theater. For more information and examples of previous student films, go to <a href="http://asdff.info">http://asdff.info</a>.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAY</b></p>	<p><b>Oracle ThinkQuest Competitions</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.thinkquest.org/competition/website/rules.html">http://www.thinkquest.org/competition/website/rules.html</a></p> <p>Website Competition - Build an educational website. Choose a <a href="#">category</a> and create a website that you will upload to their server. The <a href="#">Evaluation Criteria</a> explains how your site will be scored. Be sure to review the <a href="#">Rules</a>.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAY</b></p>	<p><b>Math Pentathlon: 4 - 7th grades</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.mathpentath.org">http://www.mathpentath.org</a></p> <p>This motivational program strengthens basic math concepts and skills, aligns with National and State Mathematics Standard, and stimulates creative thinking while developing problem-solving skills. The Math Pentathlon problem solving games provide a highly motivational format for developing and practicing important mathematics concepts and skills. While playing the games, five per level, in cooperative groups, students in grades K-8 strengthen their strategic thinking and critical reasoning abilities. The Math Pentathlon games are supported by community gam nights and spring tournaments. Grades K-7.</p>

MAY	<p><b>Junior Visual Arts Scholastic Event</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.taea.org/vase">http://www.taea.org/vase</a>  The Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) has sponsored the Junior Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) since 1997. VASE is the only art event of its kind in the nation. Students are provided the opportunity to bring artworks created in their art classes to a regional event where they are interviewed by a certified juror who evaluates their work based on a rubric and their understanding of the art processes involved in the development of their artwork. Only academically eligible middle school students in grades 6-8 enrolled in a Texas public or private school can participate in Jr. VASE.</p>
MAY	<p><b>Destination Imagination</b></p> <p><a href="http://capital.texasdi.org">http://capital.texasdi.org</a>  Destination Imagination is an extra-curricular program that fosters creativity and team-based problem-solving skills. There are two components to DI: "Instant Challenges" and "Team Challenges". Participation in DI is available for grades K-12 and teams compete only against their peers. Through a school's DI membership they can have up to 5 teams of 5 to 7 students. Each team chooses one challenge from a field of five to solve. The solution is then presented at the Regional Meet in the spring.</p>
MAY	<p><b>University Interscholastic League (UIL)</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.uil.utexas.edu">http://www.uil.utexas.edu</a>  The voluntary-membership, non-profit organization exists to provide educational extracurricular <a href="#">academic</a>, <a href="#">athletics</a>, and <a href="#">music</a> contests. The initials UIL have come to represent quality educational competition administered by school people on an equitable basis.</p> <p>The <a href="#">purpose</a> of the UIL is to organize and properly supervise contests that assist in preparing students for citizenship. It aims to provide healthy, character building, educational activities carried out under rules providing for good sportsmanship and fair play for all participants.</p>
MAY	<p><b>AISD Student Anthology</b></p> <p>The anthology includes selected writing pieces from students at each of our campuses. Each campus will receive an anthology to be placed in their campus library.</p>

## Student Organizations Offering Competitions

### **Business Professional of Americas** <http://www.bpa.org/default.html>

A student organization emphasizing the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills.

### **DECA** <http://www.deca.org>

An organization offering the co-curricular education of students with interests in marketing, management, and entrepreneurship. DECA helps students develop skills and competence for marketing careers, build self-esteem, experience leadership and practice community service.

### **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** <http://www.fbla-pbl.org>

Integrates business and education as a focus for developing leadership and career development.

### **Family, Career and Community Leaders of America** <http://www.fcclainc.org>

A career and technical student organization focused on in Family and consumer Sciences education. Focusing on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner and community leader, members develop skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation

### **Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)** <http://www.hosa.org>

A student organization whose mission is to promote career opportunities in health care and enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.

### **Model United Nations (MUN)** <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/modelun>

The MUN club engages in an authentic simulation of the United Nations system by learning about the UN system, the skills of debate, compromise, conflict resolution and negotiation. MUN team members have fun learning about the workings of world diplomacy through the lens of current events.

### **SkillsUSA** <http://www.skillsusa.org>

A national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. It was formerly known as VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

### **Texas Future Farmers of America (FFA)** <http://www.texasffa.org>

A student-led leadership development organization for students of agricultural education. Agriculture is much broader than farming and ranching. Members study things such as horticulture, aquaculture, food sciences, accounting, wildlife management, mechanics and engineering.

### **Texas Technology Students Association** <http://www.texastsa.org>

This association prepares members for the challenge of a dynamic world by promoting technological literacy, leadership, and problem solving, resulting in personal growth and opportunity.

