

2025-26 PTA Leader TOOLKIT

LOUISIANA PTA

Section 9: Awards, Grants, and Contests

LouisianaPTA.org/awards

LouisianaPTA.org/grants

LouisianaPTA.org/contests



Louisiana
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.®

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Summary of LAPTA Awards, Grants, & Contests

Monthly Challenge Membership Awards:

August Get up & Geaux! Award
September to Remember Award
October Spooktacular BOOst Award
January Goal Getters Award
February Above and Beyond Award

Annual Membership Awards:

Goal Getter Award
Overachiever Award
Triple Crown Award
All Star Staff Award
Every Child, One Voice® Award

LAPTA Awards:

LAPTA Joseph F. Seeley Volunteer of the Year Award
LAPTA Advocacy Award for PTAs
LAPTA Advocacy Award for Students

Contests and Reflections:

Red Ribbon Week Safety Poster Contest
Reflections Theme Contest
Reflections Arts Program

Grants from LAPTA:

\$750 Literacy Grants
\$750 Healthy Minds Grants
\$500 Creative Teacher Grants
\$500 Day of Service Grants
\$500 New PTA Start Up Grants

LAPTA Monthly Membership Challenges

The 2025-26 LAPTA membership goal is 11,000 for our 102nd year and we need our PTAs to help us reach that goal. To be eligible for awards, all PTAs must have all officers registered and have 100% Active Affiliation status (after October 31) with LAPTA. Each challenge is based on reaching a certain percentage of the PTA's goal set by LAPTA. Therefore, you do not need to strategize about submitting dues as in previous years. The qualifying PTAs will receive recognition and automatically enter a **monthly drawing for \$100 plus other bonus prizes for the Board Members to reward your hard work!**

August "Get Up & Geaux!" Award

Reach 25% of your LAPTA goal by August 31 and all officers registered with LAPTA

September to Remember Award

Reach 50% of your LAPTA goal by September 30

October Spooktacular BOOst Award

Reach 75% of your LAPTA goal by October 31 and complete the Affiliation Report

January Goal Getter Award

Reach 100% of your LAPTA goal by January 31

February Above and Beyond Award

Surpass your LAPTA goal by at least one member by February 28

LAPTA Annual Membership Awards

The 2025-26 LAPTA membership goal is 11,000 for our 102nd year and we need our PTAs to help us reach that goal. PTAs are qualified by LAPTA without application by the PTA. LAPTA will use the membership totals as of March 31 and will announce the winners in April.

Goal Getter Award

Reach at least 100% of the LAPTA membership goal

Overachiever Award

Exceed the LAPTA goal by at least 10%

Triple Crown Award

Reach the LAPTA membership goal for at least three consecutive years

All Star Staff Award

100% membership of teachers and administrators

Every Child, One Voice® Award

Membership total is at least 100% of student enrollment count

Red Ribbon Week Safety Poster Contest

Deadline to submit to LAPTA: November 1, 2025
LAPTA Winners Announced: November 10, 2025

Submit Entries: LouisianaPTA.org/posters
Quantity Offered: Three/Grade Division

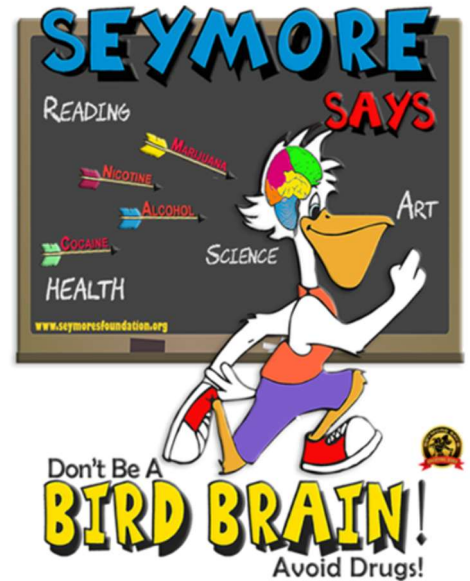
The Louisiana Seymore D'Fair Foundation celebrates the Kiki Red Ribbon Week School Celebration every year from October 23 – 31. The annual theme is “Don’t Be a Bird Brain! Avoid Drugs!” Enrique “Kiki” Camarena was a Drug Enforcement Administration Agent who was tortured and killed in Mexico in 1985. In honor of Kiki’s memory and his battle against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors began to wear red satin ribbons. Parents then began to form coalitions using Camarena as their model while embracing his belief that one person can make a difference. Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities. Visit SeymoresFoundation.org for support information and to implement the BESE-approved program at your school.

For the contest, students draw a drug-free poster on white paper. Each Local PTA submits up to 3 winners per Grade Division to LAPTA. The Grade Divisions are Primary (Pre-K to Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3-5), Middle School (Grades 6-8), High School (Grades 9-12), and Elementary Accessible Arts (Pre-K - Grade 5 with ADA 504) or Secondary Accessible Arts (Grade 6 - 12 with ADA 504).

Ensure that all winners have signed a Media Release Form with the school. Take a picture of the winning posters in good lighting from directly above the picture. Be careful to include all edges and corners of the drawing in the picture. Go to LouisianaPTA.org/posters. Enter up to three entries per Grade Division and submit the form. Submit a different form for each Grade Division. LAPTA will award three winners per Grade Division. Winners will be announced on November 10, 2025.

How to Submit Local PTA Winners to LAPTA

1. When advertising the contest, make sure each student has a Media Release on file. The information needed for each winner is the PTA name, Grade Division, student name, grade, and parent name, email, and phone. Include the theme to help students develop their ideas. Pick a deadline that allows enough time to complete your judging before LAPTA’s November 1 deadline.
2. The Local PTA picks three winners per Grade Division to submit to LAPTA for consideration. Some PTAs will have more than one Grade Division. **Take a picture of the winning posters in good lighting from directly above the picture. Be careful to include all edges and corners of the drawing in the picture.**
3. Go to LouisianaPTA.org/posters. Enter the information for up to three students per Grade Division and submit the form. Repeat a different form for other Grade Divisions. You will need the PTA name, Grade Division, student name, grade, and parental name, email, and phone number.
4. LAPTA will have a guest judge. Winners announced on November 10, 2025. They receive a medal from LAPTA in April or May!



2026–27 Reflections Theme Search

Deadline: November 16, 2025

Winners Announced: December 1, 2025

Submit Entries: LouisianaPTA.org/theme

Quantity Offered: 5

The search is on for a future Reflections theme! National PTA's Reflections Arts Program helps students explore their own thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and even find a love for learning. This helps them become more successful in school and in life. Each year, over 300,000 students in Pre-K through Grade 12 create original works of art in response to a student-selected theme. With this theme, students will create works of art in six categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.

Help National PTA pick the theme that will spark fun and creativity for a future Reflections program! The student who submits the final winning entry for National PTA will receive a \$100 prize. We're looking for the most original theme ideas. Check out the past themes to avoid duplicate submissions at LouisianaPTA.org/theme. The current Reflections Theme for 2025-26 is *I Belong*. To participate, students go to LouisianaPTA.org/theme to submit their entry directly with Louisiana PTA. LAPTA picks five winners who are entered into the National PTA search!

**The only thing the Local PTA needs to do is
share the image below to advertise the contest!**

Download at LouisianaPTA.org/reflections and share digitally or as a flyer to students who directly submit their entries to LAPTA. There's no further work for the Local PTA!



NATIONAL PTA[®]
REFLECTIONS[®]

CALL FOR NEW THEME!

**The new theme is needed
for 2027-2028!**

Help us pick the theme idea
that will spark fun and creativity for the
National PTA Reflections Program.

Deadline: November 16, 2025



DANCE
CHOREOGRAPHY



FILM
PRODUCTION



LITERATURE



MUSIC
COMPOSITION



PHOTOGRAPHY



VISUAL ARTS

**Enter your idea at
LouisianaPTA.org/theme
or scan me!**



Reflections Arts Program

Deadline: January 18, 2026

Winners Announced: March 2, 2026

Submit Entries: LouisianaPTA.org/reflections

Quantity: Many!

National PTA has a long-standing commitment to arts education. The Reflections Arts Program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts, which boosts student confidence and success in the arts and in life. Each year, over 300,000 students in Pre-K through Grade 12 create original works of art. This 50+ year old program helps them explore their own thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful. The 2025-26 Reflections theme is ***I Belong***.



PTAs first register at LouisianaPTA.org/reflections. The PTA may choose which of the six art categories open to their students. Students submit their completed works in whichever of the available categories they choose: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.

Students must participate in their Grade Division: Primary (Pre-K to Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3-5), Middle School (Grades 6-8), High School (Grades 9-12), and Elementary Accessible Arts (Pre-K - Grade 5 with ADA 504) or Secondary Accessible Arts (Grade 6 - 12 with ADA 504). Students with the ADA Section 504 may enter in the Accessible Arts Division or the Grade Division most closely aligned to their functional abilities.

The Local PTA Unit submits their winners to LAPTA by January 18, 2026. Please set your deadlines earlier to give enough time to have entries judged. All winners are submitted through an online portal to LAPTA. Local PTAs must have Active Affiliation for their students to participate.

Reflections Guidelines and Deadlines

- **REQUIRED:** Go to LouisianaPTA.org/reflections to register with LAPTA. Find all details, documents, and links.
- Local PTA Units also **pre-register with National PTA** to provide National PTA information on the number of Local PTA Units planning to participate.
- The Student Entry Portal link will open in December. All entries are submitted electronically through the portal.
- LAPTA provides webinars and written guidance at LouisianaPTA.org/reflections.
- LAPTA accepts entries in all six Arts Categories. The Local PTA Unit can decide which Arts Categories their students can enter.
- Eligible Local PTA Units can submit three entries from each Arts Category per Grade Division to LAPTA for judging at the state level. If your school has more than one Grade Division, you may submit three entries for each Grade Division. The Grade Categories are Primary (Pre-K to Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3-5), Middle School (Grades 6-8), High School (Grades 9-12), and Elementary Accessible Arts (Pre-K - Grade 5 with ADA 504) or Secondary Accessible Arts (Grade 6 - 12 with ADA 504).
- **Entry DEADLINE to LAPTA is January 18, 2026**, through the online Student Entry Portal.
- Winners are announced on **March 2, 2026**. LAPTA will honor the winners in April or May!
- Questions? Email Reflections@LouisianaPTA.org.



LAPTA Joseph F. Seeley Volunteer of the Year Award

Application Deadline: March 31, 2026
Winner Announced: April 14, 2026

Apply at LouisianaPTA.org/volunteeraward
Quantity Offered: Usually 1 but all are recognized

The volunteers across Louisiana are truly the heart of the association. Recognize and thank that special person who goes above and beyond for all children, the one who acts as a tireless advocate for children's education, health, and well-being by honoring them with a Volunteer of the Year Award. This award recognizes one PTA volunteer who made a positive impact on the school and its children. This special person does not need to be the person who logs the most volunteer hours or is a PTA Executive Committee Member. Letters of recommendation are not required but will be accepted and considered if submitted.

LAPTA's volunteer recognition award was established in 2023, our 100th year, to honor the memory of Joseph F. Seeley, a consummate PTA volunteer at all levels. His enthusiasm and dedication to all he served never waned. Joseph served as a compelling force in bringing awareness to the power of volunteering.

Recognize the very best! Think of the people the PTA might like to honor with a Volunteer of the Year Award, people who care about children and have spent their lives caring about and devoted to the service of children and youth, perhaps a PTA leader, past or present, the quiet, reliable, unassuming volunteer, an outstanding teacher who might be retiring, a senior citizen who serves as a volunteer in the school, a school crossing guard who ensures the children get to school safely for years, a police officer or juvenile protection worker, or a legislator who has worked for laws benefiting children.

The questions are very simple, making the application as easy as possible! Other needed information is PTA name, LUR#, and contact name, nominee's contact information, and a picture of the nominee. **Submit application by March 31, 2026. PLEASE APPLY!!!!**

LAPTA Advocacy Award for a PTA

Application Deadline: March 31, 2026
Winners Announced: April 14, 2026

Apply at LouisianaPTA.org/advocacyaward
Quantity Offered: 2

The LAPTA Advocacy Award is available for up to two Local PTA Units. The purpose of the Advocacy Award is to recognize a PTA Unit who has worked to make a change for the betterment of children. Advocacy is the heart of PTA and should be the priority of all. Every PTA should have a year's worth of advocacy that they could submit! There are a multitude of ways PTAs can advocate to make all children's potential a reality. The application is amazingly simple! The LAPTA Board of Directors blindly reviews all applications. Winners announced April 14.

LAPTA Advocacy Award for a Student

Application Deadline: March 31, 2026
Winners Announced: April 14, 2026

Apply at LouisianaPTA.org/advocacyaward
Quantity Offered: 2

The LAPTA Advocacy Award is available for up to two Louisiana students who are in high school or younger. The purpose of the Advocacy Award is to recognize a student who has worked to make a change for the betterment of children. Advocacy is the heart of PTA and should be the priority of all. It's never too soon for students to get involved in advocacy work! There are a multitude of ways students can advocate to help achieve PTA's mission which is to make all children's potential a reality. The application is amazingly simple! The LAPTA Board of Directors blindly reviews all applications. Winners announced April 14.

National PTA Grants

National PTA offers hundreds of grant opportunities annually. Share with LAPTA any grants that the PTA receives so that the accomplishments can be celebrated! If you don't receive a grant the first time, apply again. Visit PTA.org, go under the *Run Your PTA* menu, and select *Award & Grant Opportunities* for more information. The deadline is in early Fall.

Louisiana PTA Grants

Louisiana PTA financially supports Local PTA Units that work tirelessly to help establish strong family-school partnerships in their community. LAPTA gives up to \$12,000 in grants to help engage families, support student success, improve the health and safety of students and families, increase arts education, and more. In addition to evaluating the merits of each application, we may also consider geographic and financial needs and other criteria to ensure a robust and diverse pool of grantees. All applications are quite simple and easy to complete. To apply, see LouisianaPTA.org/grants.

\$750 LAPTA Literacy Grant Application

Application Deadline: November 23, 2025
Winners Announced: December 1, 2025

Apply at LouisianaPTA.org/literacygrant
Quantity Offered: 4

The LAPTA \$750 Literacy Grant 750 helps Local PTA Units host literacy programs or purchase literary items for the school or classroom library. Literacy skills in Louisiana are unacceptably low, and LAPTA and National PTA are making literacy opportunities a priority for our children. See PTA.org/home/programs/family-reading for program suggestions.

The application is simple. Entry information includes Local PTA Name, LUR#, parish, mailing address, the Grade Division, PTA's gross annual income, PTA contact's info, and complete details on the proposed use of funds. All grant funds must support age-appropriate programs for literacy skills. The program ideally should serve a majority of the school population. The funds will be used within a year of issuance. Documentation and pictures of the event must be emailed to Contests@LouisianaPTA.org.

\$750 LAPTA Healthy Minds Grant Application

Application Deadline: March 31, 2026
Winners Announced: April 14, 2026

Apply at LouisianaPTA.org/healthymindsgrant
Quantity Offered: 4

The LAPTA Healthy Minds Grants encourage Local PTA Units to host mental health activities, events, or programs at their supported schools. Support the mental health of all children before, during and after challenges arise and to support parents' and caregivers' mental health, too! National PTA developed the PTA Healthy Minds Program to empower families to make mental health an everyday priority.

National PTA has a Mental Health Pilot Program and Louisiana was one of only a few to implement it! Jessica Latin is the Louisiana Healthy Minds State Champion. She is a licensed professional counselor and an LAPTA Board Member. She empowers families with resources and tools to help them make mental health a daily priority! Follow her and learn more at PTA.org/HealthyMinds, search "Louisiana PTA Healthy Minds" on Facebook, or email Jessica at healthyminds@LouisianaPTA.org.

Entry information includes Local PTA Name, LUR#, parish, mailing address, the Grade Division, PTA's annual gross income, PTA contact's info, and complete details on the proposed use of funds. All grant funds must support an age-appropriate activity, event, or program. The program should ideally serve a majority of the school population. The funds will be used within a year of issuance. Documentation and pictures of the event must be emailed to Contests@LouisianaPTA.org.

\$500 LAPTA Creative Teacher Grant

Application Deadline: March 31, 2026
Winners Announced: April 14, 2026

Apply at LouisianaPTA.org/teachergrant
Quantity Offered: 4

LAPTA offers Creative Teacher Grants to classroom teachers to fund creative, innovative, and fun programs or projects for students. Grants may fund instructional and classroom materials, videos, parent involvement programs, or any activity or material which supports student enjoyment, wonder, and engagement. The hope is that this grant will result in fun and enriching projects or opportunities for the students that would not otherwise have been possible.

The proposal should be clear and logical and include a specific objective; a creative or innovative approach; clear description of instructional procedures; and emphasis on student enjoyment. The teacher or group of teachers must be current PTA members. Entry information includes Local PTA Name, LUR#, parish, mailing address, the Grade Division, PTA's annual gross income, PTA contact's info, and complete details on the proposed use of funds. All grant funds must support an age-appropriate activity, event, or program. The program should ideally serve a majority of the school population. The funds will be used within a year of issuance. Documentation and pictures of the event must be emailed to Contests@LouisianaPTA.org.

\$500 LAPTA Day of Service Grant Application

Application Deadline: March 31, 2026
Winners Announced: April 14, 2026

Apply at LouisianaPTA.org/servicegrant
Quantity Offered: 4

The four LAPTA Day of Service Grants encourage Local PTA Units to reach beyond the school and into the community to make a difference. Where is there a need? Who needs the PTA? February 17 is the National PTA Founders' Day. How can you continue the rich legacy of National PTA? Perhaps you could partner with other aligned nonprofits or agencies who serve populations like foster kids, food insecurity programs, the elderly, a community library, or an animal shelter.

Entry information includes Local PTA Name, LUR#, parish, mailing address, the Grade Division, PTA's annual gross income, PTA contact's info, and complete details on the proposed use of funds. All grant funds must support an age-appropriate activity, event, or program. The program should ideally serve a majority of the school population. The funds will be used within a year of issuance. Documentation and pictures of the event must be emailed to Contests@LouisianaPTA.org.