

Mississippi Educators Rising Frequently Asked Questions (Competitive Events)

What are Educators Rising Competitive Events?

Competitive Events provide members with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills through education-related projects, presentations, speeches, portfolios, lesson plans, and other performance-based competitions.

Why should I compete?

Competitive Events help you develop valuable college and career skills including communication, leadership, creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and professionalism. They also provide opportunities to earn recognition and qualify for the National Educators Rising Conference.

Who can compete?

Any affiliated Mississippi Educators Rising member who meets the eligibility requirements for a specific event may compete.

How many events can I compete in?

Students may compete in **one (1) Competitive Event** at the Mississippi State Leadership Conference.

How do I choose the right event?

Start by taking the "**Which Competitive Event is Right for You?**" quiz, then review the event descriptions and discuss your options with your Educators Rising Teacher Leader.

Are all events available for every grade level?

No. Some events are:

- **Junior Varsity (JV)** – Grades 9–10
- **Varsity (V)** – Grades 11–12
- **Combined (JV/V)** – Open to both divisions

Always review the official event guidelines for eligibility requirements.

Can I compete in a team event?

Yes. Some events are individual while others allow two or more competitors. Check the event guidelines for team size requirements.

Where can I find the official event guidelines and rubrics?

Official guidelines and scoring rubrics are available on the **Competitive Event Rubrics** page.

Where can I find templates and examples?

Visit the **Competitive Event Prep** page for:

- Templates
 - Workbooks
 - Formatting guides
 - Sample projects
 - Videos
 - Tips and preparation resources
-

What should I do before starting my project?

1. Read the entire event guidelines.
 2. Review the scoring rubric.
 3. Meet with your Teacher Leader.
 4. Create a timeline.
 5. Begin preparing early.
-

Can I use AI to help with my project?

AI is NOT **permitted by the current Educators Rising Competitive Event Guidelines**. Competitors are responsible for ensuring all work complies with national rules and represents their own original thinking and effort.

What should I wear?

Competitors should follow the official Mississippi Educators Rising Dress Code. Business professional attire is required unless otherwise noted.

What should I bring?

Bring:

- Any required project materials
- Presentation materials
- Notes (if permitted)
- Professional attire
- Positive attitude
- Plenty of confidence!

What happens during my event?

Depending on the event, you may:

- Give a presentation
 - Complete an interview
 - Teach a lesson
 - Submit a portfolio
 - Demonstrate a skill
 - Answer judges' questions
-

How are projects judged?

Projects are scored by trained judges using the official Educators Rising scoring rubric for each event.

How do I qualify for Nationals?

Students who place in the **Top 10** of their competitive event at the Mississippi State Leadership Conference are eligible to represent Mississippi at the National Educators Rising Conference.

Note: Local school and district travel policies may vary, and some districts may have additional requirements for students to attend.

Will I receive feedback?

Yes. Judges' score sheets and comments will be made available to competitors **within two weeks following the Mississippi State Leadership Conference.**

We encourage you to review the feedback with your Educators Rising Teacher Leader to identify strengths and areas for improvement before future competitions.

Can I compete in the same event again next year?

Absolutely! Many students continue improving their projects and compete again.

What if I have questions about an event?

Contact your Educators Rising Teacher Leader or the Mississippi State Advisor before beginning your project.

Where can I get help?

Your Teacher Leader is your best resource. You can also explore the resources available throughout the Mississippi Educators Rising website.

Can I change my event after registration?

Event changes are only permitted before established deadlines and are subject to conference policies.

Can I compete without reading the rubric?

You should NOT! The rubric explains exactly how your project will be scored.

Can parents attend my presentation?

No. Spectators are **not permitted** in competitive event presentation rooms. If a parent wishes to attend the Mississippi State Leadership Conference, they must register as an official conference attendee through the Mississippi Educators Rising State Office and follow all conference policies and procedures.

Do all events require a presentation?

Requirements vary by event. Review the official event guidelines for details.

Can I ask judges questions during the competition?

No. If you have questions about an event, ask your Teacher Leader or conference staff before your competition begins.

What if I qualify for Nationals?

Congratulations! You'll receive additional information about registration, deadlines, travel, and preparing to represent Mississippi at the National Educators Rising Conference.