

NEW MEXICO ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION STATE HIGH SCHOOL

ONE-ACT COMPETITION

(revised April 16, 2026)

ARTICLE 1.0 NAME

1.1 The official name of this activity shall be "NMAA One-Act Competition" as part of the "New Mexico Thespian Festival" hosted by New Mexico Educational Theatre Association and the Educational Theatre Association.

1.2 The State One-Act competition is held concurrently with the New Mexico Thespian Festival. Only high schools belonging to the New Mexico Activities Association may be eligible for the NMAA State award designations. The following contest rules cover only the NMAA One-Act Competition sanctioned by the New Mexico Activities Association. For information regarding the NMAA One-Act Competition and New Mexico Thespian Festival please contact Gael Natal at gaelnatal@yahoo.com or Melissa Souers at meljase13@gmail.com.

ARTICLE 2.0 PURPOSES

2.1 To nurture appreciation of theatre arts by actively participating as actors, light and sound ops, backstage crew, stage managers, and audience members.

2.2 To develop academic, communication, and social skills related to participation in theatre arts.

2.3 To promote life-long learning that is a result of engaging in theatrical activities.

2.4 To endorse and promote good sportspersonship through acceptance of respondents' decisions and criticism.

2.5 To use constructive criticism to improve future theatre work.

2.6 To foster development of leadership and teamwork

2.7 To uphold proper audience etiquette.

2.8 To advocate for the inclusion of theatre arts within school curricula.

ARTICLE 3.0 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Only high schools belonging to the New Mexico Activities Association are eligible for participation in the NMAA One-Act Competition, and consideration for award designations.

3.2 Non-member schools are welcome to participate in the New Mexico Thespian Festival, which is held concurrently with the New Mexico Activities Association One-Act Competition.

3.3 One-Act Production is defined as a single intermission-less play, long scene or cutting(s) from a full-length play or musical written specifically for the stage. Screenplays, novels and the like, not written for the stage, do not meet this definition.

3.4 A registration fee per participant/attendee, coaches and chaperones is due prior to the festival, as outlined in the festival registration form (this amount is subject to revision as

conditions warrant). Registration fees are non-refundable.

3.5 Provided there are sufficient numbers of one-act entries in the festival, the league is divided into two divisions: Athens and Sparta according to the NMAA division that their school falls into for non-football sports/activities. The Athens division is primarily for, but not limited to, New Mexico 5A size schools and higher whose drama program is supported by at least one formally-titled drama, performing arts, or communication class. The Sparta division is for New Mexico 4A size schools and under schools. Sparta division schools may elect to compete in either Athens or Sparta divisions by indicating their preference on the registration form.

3.6 Individual student eligibility, determined by NMAA standards, is solely the responsibility of the participating school and is not to be determined by the Festival Director. Any disputes regarding eligibility are to be taken to the New Mexico Activities Association. Students MUST abide by the NMAA academic eligibility code.

3.7 To present a one-act production/ long scene all students must be eligible as per defined by the New Mexico Activities Association. No one-act productions/long scenes will be allowed for comment only.

ARTICLE 4.0 ORGANIZATION

4.1 Relationship to the New Mexico Activities Association

4.1.1 New Mexico Activities Association State One-Act Competition will have one board member from the New Mexico Educational Theatre Association (Festival Director) or their designee available to attend meetings of the New Mexico Activities Association Activities Committee.

4.1.2 New Mexico Activities Association One-Act Competition will update the NMAA Activities Committee and Board on various actions and activities related to the competition.

4.2 NMedTA Board will act as the Advisory Board for the New Mexico Activities Association One-Act Competition.

4.2.1 Membership on the Advisory Board is open to any interested coaches, professional theatre artists, and community theatre artists attending the competition.

4.2.2 New members may join the board by following the process approved by the NMedTA standing board and governing documents.

4.2.3 Members of the Advisory Board will meet on a regular basis as determined by NMedTA Board Leadership.

ARTICLE 5.0 ONE-ACT PRODUCTION/LONG SCENE PRESENTATION

5.1 Total time of play/scene for this event will be no more than 35 minutes, including set up, strike, clean-up. Time does not stop until the stage and house has been cleared of all debris (including, broken glass, water, etc.)

5.2 One-Acts/Long Scenes must come from a theatrical publisher, be previously published and currently in the public domain, or be student written. Proof of rights, student permission, or public domain is required to complete registration. Violations of copyright law will result in disqualification from the event in all categories

and a 1 year suspension from participation in the NMAA One-Act Competition. NMEEdTA reserves the right to request copies of the script to review for copyright violations.

5.2.1 Coaches must provide proof of permission to perform production from a publication company upon registration. Self-published online works by others are not considered published plays. Coaches are responsible for verifying valid publishers (if the publisher is in question) with the Festival Director. Violation of publication company permissions of any kind are grounds for disqualification.

5.2.2 Out of copyright works are permitted but cannot include any copyrighted additions. To provide proof of the work being unpublished one of the following must be submitted: a letter from the publishing house noting the work is out of copyright or the page from the script that shows the date of publication renders it out of copyright.

5.2.3 Student written plays will be accepted to be performed at the NMAA One-Act Competition but will not be eligible for nomination to Chapter Select at the International Thespian Festival. Plays must be written by student(s) and may not contain any copyrighted work. When registering the play for competition, coaches must submit permission from the author(s) certifying that this is student writing and authors consent to performance by this school.

5.3 All scripts should be appropriate for high school performers and viewers. While various schools may have different standards of what is appropriate and EdTA does not want to censor school choices, it is important that coaches/students have the information to determine whether a show is appropriate for their viewing. At registration, coaches will be required to mark whether a show includes any of several elements including adult language, weapons, sensitive topics, etc. We will also request a principal signature on the registration form that certifies the play that is being performed adheres to the appropriateness standards of the home school. NMEEdTA reserves the right to request copies of the script to review for copyright violations.

5.4 All sets, props, costumes, and other elements used during the Technical Rehearsal, Set-up, and Strike must be safe for all participants. If any item is deemed unsafe for any reason by the Stage Manager Respondent or Festival Director they may not be used in the production and must be removed from the competition area. This includes but is not limited to sets that are too large or too tall to safely fit in the designed box, sets that cannot safely stand on their own while on stage, use of any effect that is hazardous, costumes that shed material, etc.

5.4.1 Prohibited items include but are not limited to: open flame, glitter, liquids other than water, anything sticky, fog/haze machines, etc.

5.4.2 All participants must wear shoes at all times. If a one act requires actors to be without shoes, sweeping the stage prior to the performance (included in the 35-minute performance time) is mandatory.

5.5 Technical Details for One-Act Performances

5.5.1 Each school will get a 7' X 8' taped square backstage to store set and props. All set and props must fit into this square. Depending on the host location, schools may have to rotate property into designated spaces on the day of the show or may be asked if their property fits into a smaller space. Smaller space requests are requests, not demands. Schools will be notified of any rotations needed

during their tech time.

5.5.2 Set-up and strike are included in the total time (35 min). There is a 5-minute crossover between shows to assist with transition between one-act productions.

5.5.3 Dressing and make-up must be completed in the time a school is “on deck:” not earlier. On deck designates the period in which the preceding school is performing as per the printed schedule. Obvious “head starts” to costuming or makeup will be counted as a deduction.

5.5.4 During a required Technical Rehearsal, students will be given guidance on how to operate lighting and sound equipment. During the performance, students will be expected to operate the equipment. Stage Management Respondent will observe the stage manager executing the rehearsal. Teachers/Directors may assist with load in, but must leave the student stage manager to run the rehearsal independently.

5.5.5 All light cues must be programmed during the Technical Rehearsal period. Specifications on lights and sound will be sent out in a separate communication.

5.5.6 Backstage Crew respondent will observe student stagehands execute set-up, run-of-show, and strike, and the Stage Management Respondent will observe the stage manager executing the production.

5.5.7 The Stage Management Respondent will tell student stage managers when they can start the performance after conferring with performance respondents and house manager.

5.5.8 During the on-deck and the 35-minute set-up/performance/strike time, coaches are NOT allowed within 20 feet of the on-deck, set-up (acting area), or the strike areas. Directing activities in these areas is the duty of the student Stage Manager and Backstage Crew. This is to be a student-executed activity and a student-oriented festival at all levels.

5.5.9 Each school is responsible for knowing and meeting all time restrictions. Neither respondents nor timekeepers will make the performers aware of the time limits during the performance unless specifically asked by the stage manager. The stage manager is responsible for informing the Stage Management Respondent when their group is ready and when the group has completed their strike. Time will not be stopped until the stage is completely clear and props/set pieces are back in the assigned square. This includes cleaning up after any breakage or spills that may have occurred onstage. Schools will incur a 5% PENALTY for shows over time between 35:00-35:59 minutes. Schools will be DISQUALIFIED for going more than 1 minute over time limit (36:00 minutes). Groups going more than 2 minutes (37:00 minutes) over will be stopped by the Stage Manager Respondent.

5.5.10 Each school is required to have a Stage Manager or Assistant Stage Manager student on deck for the duration of the run of the one-act.

5.5.11 Each school is required to have a separate technical lead for each technical category that requires leadership during the 35-minute one-act/ long scene run (Lights, Sound, Backstage Crew, and Stage Manager). Should a school not provide a technical lead, they will receive zero (0) points for that scoring category.

5.6 Coaches must upload a digital program listing show title, playwright, publishing company, cast, and crew to a NMEEdTA representative no less than 5 business days before the festival start date. This provides the judges with information needed for adjudication and failure to provide this information will result in point deductions. Paper copies of the program are not required.

ARTICLE 6.0 AWARDS AND CRITERIA

6.1 First place, second place, and third place awards for one-act competition will be presented to the highest scoring schools in Athens and Sparta Divisions at the NMAA One-Act Competition. .

6.2 If for any reason the Festival Director, or the New Mexico Activities Association representatives determine that there are not enough entrants or do not satisfy the general caliber for a given division they are not obligated to offer an award.

6.3 The criteria for the Divisional New Mexico Activities Association One-Act Competition shall be calculated as follows:

One-Act Audience Respondents: 100 x 3 Judges
Stage Manager: 65 x 1 Judge
Tech Crews: 30 x 3 Judges (Costume/Makeup, Backstage Crew, Light, Sound)

Example:

Respondent 1=	82/100	
Respondent 2=	70/100	
Respondent 3=	80/100	Combined 232/300
Stage Manager=	55/65	
Technical Crew Scores=	30/30 (Costume/Makeup & Hair)	
	23/30 (Backstage Crew)	
	10/30 (Lights)	
	10/15 (Sound)	

360/455

6.4 A minimum of three judges will view and adjudicate each production.

ARTICLE 7.0 CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE

7.1 All respondents, coaches, students, and chaperones are expected to display good examples of fair play, good sportsmanship, respect, and responsibility. Poor conduct and/or etiquette by either students or coaches may result in disqualification. In cases of dispute, the decision of the Festival Director is final.

7.2 Appropriate audience etiquette, including arriving on-time and staying through the entire performance is expected from all audience members. Festival personnel reserve the right to refuse admittance to shows after they have begun or ask audience members to leave if they are disrupting a performance.