Summary of Program Changes 2019-2020

The NIEs Program has a new name – the International Thespian Excellence Awards, or Thespys™ for short. Exactly the same as in the NIEs, each student is evaluated against established, national standards-based rubrics.

Notable changes to the program for the new school year have been highlighted in this document. Please read the official guide for all rules.

2018-19 Guidelines	2019-20 Guidelines
Acceptable material for non-musical performance categories: Selections from full-length or one-act plays and musicals, and published by: •Broadway Play Publishing •Dramatic Publishing •Dramatists Play Service •Heuer Publishing •Music Theatre International •Playscripts, Inc. •Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatricals •Samuel French, Inc. •Smith and Kraus •Tams-Witmark •The Musical Company •Theatrefolk •Theatrical Rights Worldwide •YouthPLAYS •Any public domain play written prior to 1923	**Acceptable material for non-musical performance categories:** Selections from full-length or one-act plays or musicals, ==written for the theatre==, and published by: • Broadway Play Publishing • Dramatic Publishing • Dramatists Play Service • ==Eldridge Publishing Company== • Heuer Publishing • Music Theatre International • Playscripts, Inc. • Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatricals • Samuel French, Inc. • Smith and Kraus • Tams-Witmark • The Musical Company • Theatrefolk • Theatrical Rights Worldwide • YouthPLAYS • Any public domain play written prior to 1923

2018-19 Guidelines	2019-20 Guidelines
The following are unacceptable material for non-musical performance categories: • Author-only permission. • Any play (or monologue from a musical) not published by one of the publishers listed above or by a pre-approved publishing company.	**The following are unacceptable material for non-musical performance categories:** • Author-only permission. • Any play (or monologue from a musical) not published by one of the publishers listed above or by a pre-approved publishing company. • Works available through self-publishing platforms.
Costume Construction: • An itemized expense sheet with accompanying receipts (or digital presentation) for all materials used to construct the costume, such as fabric, thread, buttons, zippers, and trim must be included. o Total may NOT exceed $100. o The cost of the pattern in NOT included in that $100. o If millinery, the budget limit is $50. o The expense sheet must be presented (mounted on a display board or as part of an electronic presentation) as proof that the entrant did not exceed their budget.	**Costume Construction:** • An itemized expense sheet with accompanying receipts (or digital presentation) for all materials used to construct the costume, such as fabric, thread, buttons, zippers, and trim must be included. o Total may NOT exceed $100. If using donated materials, the value must be determined and included in the budget. o The cost of the pattern in NOT included in that $100. o If millinery, the budget limit is $50. If using donated materials, the value must be determined and included in the budget. o The expense sheet must be presented (mounted on a display board or as part of an electronic presentation) as proof that the entrant did not exceed their budget.

Additional Changes

Rules for all performance categories: Race, ethnic origin, gender, and sexual orientation should not influence a student's evaluation. Students are encouraged to choose pieces that speak to them, but copyright rules must be followed. For example: students may play a role of any gender regardless of the gender with which they identify, but it is important to note that all copyright rules are to be enforced and the student cannot change pronouns without the express, written consent from the publisher.

There was no language in the 18-19 guide regarding race, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.

Makeup Design Category was added to the Thespy Program. The rubric and specific category rules (courtesy of California State Thespians) can be found on our website.

There was no Makeup Design Category in the 18-19 guide.

Entrants must wear all black
- **Clothing and shoes must be all black**. Any visible color, including white, will result in a disqualification

The 18-19 language was: "Entrants must wear all black." We've expanded on the point for clarity.