

OFFICIAL RULES FOR “2025 Governor’s Red Ribbon Scholastic” Contest

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Prevention Services invites Georgia students to participate in their category of choice, of the Governor’s Substance Abuse Prevention Red Ribbon Scholastic contest. The 2025 Governor’s Red Ribbon Campaign will offer a Scholastic contest which includes artistic, musical, spoken word, and written category options. The winners of all categories will be announced during the 2025 Awards Campaign Ceremony which will be held in the spring of 2026. The winners will be invited to the ceremony and presented with a prize, a certificate of achievement, have their picture posted on the DBHDD website in addition to placement in the 2026 Red Ribbon Planning Guide.

CONTEST PERIOD: The Contest will begin on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 8:00 A.M. EST and ends on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 11:59 P.M. EST (the “Contest Period”).

HOW TO ENTER: Use the official DBHDD entry form to participate in your category of choice. There are **three (3)** ways to enter:

(1) Online Entry: Visit the www.GaRedRibbon.org or <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/red-ribbon-campaign-2> and click on the “2025 Red Ribbon Contest Link” link. Follow the directions provided to complete the entry form, including your selected category and submit. All online Entries must be received by Thursday, December 18, 2025, 11:59 P.M. EST to be considered. Upload must include school’s name inclusive of teacher’s contact information along with your signed parent / legal guardian permission slip.

(2) Mail Entry: Visit the www.GaRedRibbon.org or <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/red-ribbon-campaign-2> site, print out the application form and the permission slip. Please complete the application form and, your parent/guardian must complete and sign the permission slip. Mail them to Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), c/o Barbara Dorman, 200 Piedmont Ave. S.E, Suite# 504-13, Atlanta, GA 30334. All mail-in entries must be received by Thursday, December 18, 2025, to be considered and must include school’s name inclusive of teacher’s contact information along with parent or legal guardian signature on permission slip.

(3) E-mail Entry: Visit the www.GaRedRibbon.org or <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/red-ribbon-campaign-2> site, print out the application form and the permission slip. Complete them by hand and have your parent/guardian sign the permission slip. Then scan both documents and attach to an email to Barbara.Dorman@dbhdd.ga.gov and Prevention@dbhdd.ga.gov. All emailed entries must be received by Thursday, December 18, 2025, to be considered and must include school information along with parent or legal guardian signature on permission slip.

ELIGIBILITY: Contest is open to all state of Georgia full or halftime students who attend elementary, middle, high school, college, and/or technical schools (public schools, state certified private schools, or approved homeschool programs) and if minors have acquired their parent or legal guardian's permission.

ALL MINORS MUST PROVIDE SIGNED PERMISSION FROM PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO ENTER.

ENTRY LIMITATIONS:

Only one entry per category, per student is allowed (will be considered). Entries generated by script, macro, or other automated means or by any means which undermine the entry process are void. Limit one (1) Category Entry per person, regardless of method of entry. All Entries become the sole property of DBHDD and will not be returned. Released Parties (as defined below) are not responsible for lost, late, stolen, garbled, incomplete, damaged, delayed, illegible, mutilated, misdirected, or postage-due Entries or mail. Incomplete, illegible, or fraudulent entries will not be considered.

REQUIREMENTS OF ENTRIES:

All entries must convey a message **regarding Substance Abuse Awareness and Substance Abuse Prevention** and, be the original work of the entrant; may not have been previously published, may not have won previous awards, and must not infringe upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity or other intellectual property or other rights of any person or entity.

Artistic: (Electronic or Print) Should you wish to enter the artistic category you must send a standard (22" x 28") poster or create a "PSA" focusing on the theme of substance abuse prevention and awareness. The 2025 National Red Ribbon Campaign theme is "**LIFE IS A PUZZLE. SOLVE It DRUG-FREE.**" Each print entry must have the following information on the back of the poster: Student name, school name, school system name and educator contact information. ***Omission of this information voids the entry.***

Musical: (Acapella, Rap or Vocal) All submitted songs must focus on the theme of substance abuse prevention and awareness; be original, unpublished (or self-published) songs that have been written or co-written by the entrant(s) and not exceed more than three (3) minutes in length.

Spoken Word: (Oral Performance) Submitted composition must focus on the theme of substance abuse prevention and awareness; be original, unpublished (or self-published) work that must have been written or co-written by the entrant(s) and not exceed more than three (3) minutes in length.

Written: (Essay or Poem) All entries must focus on the theme of substance abuse prevention and awareness; be typed and submitted as a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or WordPerfect document. Composition must be double-spaced, submitted in 12 pt. Times New Roman font style, and cannot exceed more than 500 words.

Maximum of (5) five entries per school is allowed (*will be judged*) for the Written category. *It will be necessary for the schools to decide on the best applicants to enter the statewide written category contest hence, the entry must be received from the school directly.*

If the Entry contains any material or elements that are not owned by the entrant, and/or which are subject to the rights of third parties, the entrant is responsible for obtaining, prior to submission of the entry, any and all releases and consents necessary to permit the use and exhibition of the entry by DBHDD in the manner set forth in these Official Rules, including, without limitation, name and likeness permissions from any person who appears in or is identifiable in the entry. DBHDD reserves the right to request proof of these permissions in a form acceptable to DBHDD from any entrant at any time. Failure to provide such proof may, if requested, render the entry null and void. By submitting an entry, entrant warrants and represents that he/she and any persons appearing or who are identifiable in the entry consent to the submission and use of the entry in the Contest and to its use as otherwise set forth herein.

JUDGING: On or about February 16, 2026, all eligible Entries received by DBHDD will be judged by a panel of qualified judges based on the following criteria: (1) creativity; (2) originality; and (3) adherence to submission guidelines. The Entries with the highest score per category will be deemed the winner. In the event of a category tie, the winner will be selected based on the time and date receipt of the contest entry.

WINNER NOTIFICATION: Potential winner(s) and or their parent(s) along with school associate will be contacted via email or phone. They will be required to execute and return a publicity release (except where prohibited) and a liability form. The execution of additional releases and/or waivers of liability required by DBHDD and/or any other applicable sanctioning body or prize provider may also be required and will need to be returned within the time specified by such entities, as appropriate. Return of prize or prize notification as undeliverable, failure to sign and return requested documentation within the specified time, the inability of DBHDD to contact a potential winner within a reasonable time period or noncompliance with these Official Rules by any potential winner will result in disqualification and, at DBHDD's sole discretion, the prize may be awarded to a runner-up.

PRIZE: One (1) Prize Winner per Region will receive:

- A certificate of achievement
- A prize (up to a \$50.00 prize value)
- And a Red Ribbon gift bag

All applicable federal, state, and local taxes, any other expenses associated with prize acceptance and use not specifically listed herein as being provided are the responsibility of each winner. Prizes are awarded “as is” with no warranty or guarantee, either express or implied by DBHDD. No substitution or transfer of prize is permitted, except by DBHDD, which reserves the right to substitute a prize (or portion thereof) with one of comparable or greater value. All prize details are at DBHDD’s sole discretion.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: By entering this Contest and/or using any prize, entrant and parent or legal guardian on behalf of entrant agrees: (1) to release, discharge and hold harmless DBHDD, affiliated companies and advertising and promotion agencies, and each of their respective shareholders, officers, directors, employees, members, agents and assigns (collectively, the “Released Parties”) from liability of any kind or nature for any loss, claims, damages, or injuries of any kind resulting in whole or in part, directly or indirectly from entrant’s participation in this Contest or from the acceptance and use/misuse of any prize; and (2) to abide by, and be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of DBHDD relating to participation in the Contest, selection of winners and awarding of prizes, which shall be final. Acceptance of any prize constitutes permission to use winner’s name, biographical information, city and state of residence, photograph, image and/or likeness for advertising, promotional and other purposes in any and all media now known or hereafter devised, worldwide, in perpetuity, without further compensation, notification or permission from entrant or any third party and without prior notice, approval or inspection, and to execute specific consent to such use if asked to do so, unless prohibited by law. Released Parties are not responsible for lost, interrupted or unavailable network, server, Internet Service Provider (ISP), website, or other connections, availability or accessibility or failed computer, satellite, telephone or cable transmissions, lines, or technical failure or jumbled, scrambled, delayed, or misdirected transmissions or computer hardware or software malfunctions, failures or difficulties, or other errors or difficulties of any kind whether human, mechanical, electronic, computer, network, typographical, printing or otherwise relating to or in connection with the Contest, including, without limitation, errors or difficulties which may occur in connection with the administration of the Contest, the processing or judging of Entries, the announcement of the prize, the incorrect uploading of the drawing, or in any Contest-related materials. Released Parties are not responsible for injury or damage to any person's computer related to or resulting from participating in this Contest or downloading materials from or use of the website. Persons who tamper with or abuse any aspect of the Contest or website, who act in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner or who are in violation of these Official Rules, as solely determined by DBHDD, will be disqualified and all associated Entries will be void. Should any portion of the Contest be, in DBHDD’s sole opinion, compromised by virus, worms, bugs, nonauthorized human intervention or other causes which, in the sole opinion of DBHDD, corrupt or impair the administration, security, fairness or proper play, or submission of Entries, or should the Contest be unable to run as

planned for any other reason, DBHDD reserves the right at its sole discretion to suspend, modify or terminate the Contest and, if terminated, at its discretion, select the potential winner from all eligible, non-suspect Entries received prior to action taken using the judging procedure outlined above.

WINNERS' LIST: The winners' names will be posted on www.GaRedRibbon.org and <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/governors-red-ribbon-campaign-2> from 2026 Red Ribbon Campaign Award Ceremony date until DBHDD decides to remove the list from its website.

SPONSOR: This Contest is sponsored by Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities, Office of Prevention Services; 200 Piedmont Ave. SE, 5th Floor West Tower; Suite 504-13, Atlanta, GA 30334.