



Youth Individual Events

My name is Lauren Ray and I am your current Chair of Secondary Individual Events (2IEs) for the Mississippi Theatre Association. I'm thrilled to introduce this year's IEs team and provide some information about this year's Secondary IEs.

About this year's team:

I am a high school theatre and communications teacher at Northwest Rankin High School in Flowood, MS. I've served in several different capacities on the MTA board since 2017, and I'm excited to support anyone producing secondary theatre across the state! **Save my cell number: 601.331.6696**, and text me if you have questions!

Working with 2IEs this year will be co-Vice Chairpeople David Kelly and Roxie Hood. David is the secondary theatre director at Saint Andrew's Episcopal School, and Roxie Hood is an Algebra II teacher at Jackson Academy and skilled theatre maker. We would not be able to offer the incredible variety of events that 2IEs provides without the dedicated support of folks like David and Roxie!

About this year's festival cycle:

We are thrilled to once again be able to offer individual and small-group competition in acting, musical, and tech/design divisions.

We will continue to pilot on-site events to give more students a chance to demonstrate their varied theatrical skills!

Our ongoing adjustments to the IEs guidelines are in direct response to the feedback we receive from last year's festival. Your input matters a great deal! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the way our festival is run, let us know! We welcome your input.

The 2024-2025 MTA handbook has the complete operations manual for our division, beginning on page 66. (The table of contents is dynamic: you can click to navigate to the pages you are trying to access!) If anything in the handbook is unclear, let me know.

Schools will receive access to their personalized Individual Events organizer very soon. **All entries must be in the organizer by November 1, 2024.** Drops, swaps, and changes to selections may continue until the November 15 performance submission deadline. No additional entries will be accepted after November 1.

A school / organization may have ten (10) entries in each event. A student may enter up to five (5) events. On-site pilot events do not count toward this 5-entry limit.

- Solo event registration is \$10 per entry.
- Duet event registration is \$20 per entry.
- Group event registration is \$30 per entry (regardless of the number of students in the group).
- Pilot event registration will be \$5 per entry.

There will also be an Individual Events competition for adults on-site at the MTA State Festival, and we encourage teachers to participate! Registration for Adult IEs can be included with schools' organizational registration information. Talk to Jessica Wilkinson for more information or guidance on how to participate.

Notes & Changes:

1. As we have done for the past three years, **performance IEs will begin with a virtual preliminary round.** Submission guidelines will be the same as last year; reminders about how to film, upload, and

submit preliminary performance videos will follow in a subsequent email.

2. **All performance events will have a final round.** If an event has 30 or more entries, there will be 15 finalists selected by rank as determined by the preliminary judges' evaluation. If an event has fewer than 30 entries, the final round will include half of the entries. Finalists will perform live on Saturday at the State Festival in January for a panel of qualified judges whose evaluation will determine the top-ranking entries.
3. New this year, **technical events will begin with a preliminary round via a digital folder submission.** The deadline for this link submission will be December 1. We are so excited that our technical events are continuing to grow, and this preliminary round will allow us to continue to allow 10 entries per school in main design events.

A sample preliminary digital folder submission will follow in a subsequent email.

4. **MTA intends to offer these Pilot Events on-site at the festival** in January (provided there is capacity – facilities and personnel – to run them).
 - Tech Relay (we piloted this event at the 2024 festival and hope to continue the pilot for a second year at the 2025 festival)
 - Schools may submit ten (10) entries and can designate a number of entries without naming participating students until after finals in other events are announced.
 - Students will participate in teams of three (3) to five (5) in four (4) to six (6) relay-style competitions.
 - A comprehensive handbook will follow that explains the full guidelines for this event.
 - Splash Scenes
 - Schools may submit ten (10) entries and can designate a number of entries without naming participating students until after finals in other events are announced.
 - Teachers will receive this year's splash scene in November.

- Names and identifying information about characters will be removed.
- Characters will be designated “A” and “B.”
- Students will work with the other splash scene participants in their school to learn and prepare the scene.
- At the State Festival, there will be a morning rehearsal and training session in which students will be paired with other A’s or B’s. In the afternoon, students will be randomly assigned a partner, given a limited amount of time to prepare, and invited to perform for a panel of adjudicators.

Material Selection:

We encourage students to begin looking for their selections as soon as they are able. In regard to material selection as per MTA Handbook:

1. Material must be drawn from **published plays**.
 - a. Works from other literary forms such as poetry, fiction, stand up/sketch comedy, or song lyrics are not permitted.
 - b. Original works are prohibited except in the Original Scene category.
 - c. Musical Theatre material must be from published musicals. Popular music will not be permitted unless it is included in the score of a published musical.
 - d. Entrants will be required to identify the company that holds the rights to the play or musical from which their material is selected.
2. In events with more than one participant, each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
3. **Selections should be appropriate to the performers and should provide interest, intelligibility, and literary value.**
4. **Performers should demonstrate evidence of understanding in regards to the selection’s context and intent.**
5. Entrants should use discretion in regards to language and subject matter.

- a. Directors will attest that they have seen and approved the material their students are performing and that it appropriately reflects the standards of the student's school and community.
- b. MTA supports a policy permitting the widest possible range of dramatic material and is not responsible for the perceived decency of selections that students enter in the Individual Events Festival.
- c. No student may enter any Individual Event with a selection that their school is bringing to any MTA-sponsored festival during the current school year or brought to any MTA-sponsored festival during the previous school year.

Secondary Individual Events registration will open as soon as possible! We will share your personalized entries organizer as soon as it is ready (hopefully within the week)!

To help us with this process, please respond to this email with the following:

_____ NAME OF SCHOOL _____ is planning on participating in MTA's Secondary Individual Events.

-OR-

_____ NAME OF SCHOOL _____ is interested in participating in MTA's Secondary Individual Event, but I need more information. Please call me at **_____ PHONE NUMBER _____** during the hours of **_____ AVAILABILITY _____**.

Feel free to forward this information to any other secondary theatre teachers who you feel might not receive MTA emails. Reach out if you have any questions about Individual Events this year!

Sincerely,
Lauren Ray