

Junior VASE Rules & Policies 2025-26 (edits highlighted in yellow)

Purpose: This event will officially be named the **Junior Visual Art Scholastic Event (JR VASE)** and shall be under the supervision and direction of TAEA. The purpose of the Texas Art Education Association *Visual Art Scholastic Event* is to recognize exemplary student achievement in visual art through individual and original expression of ideas applying the elements and principles of art based upon research of art media and art history.

For information about the VASE Blue Ribbon Committee, click on **VASE Blue Ribbon Committee** on the **Rules & Policies** tab at the top of the VASE website.

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JR VASE 2026 marks the initial year of the VASE VIRTUAL EVENT PILOT, which will be held on the same day as the In-Person Regional Event. Students must have a valid, approved conflict preventing their attendance as In-Person. Teachers will apply for Virtual Status before the Final Deadline, and if granted by the Regional Director, can enter no more than 20% of their student entries as Virtual.

Students will prepare for the event as if they were In-Person participants, meeting all deadlines. Teachers will bring the prepared Virtual Artworks with In-Person students & entries, and jurors designated as "Virtual" will evaluate them using Virtual Criteria (see Section III.2) with a top score of 55.

The other difference for Virtual Entries is that they will not be eligible for Platinum Level (see Section III.3). Virtual Pilot rules modifications are in red type, highlighted yellow.

Section I.1: GENERAL REGULATIONS

- (A) **TEACHER ELIGIBILITY:** The *Junior Visual Art Scholastic Event (JR VASE)* shall be open only to full time students in grades 6-8 in all Texas *comprehensive (accredited)* public, private, charter or homeschoools. The sponsor teacher must be a current member of TAEA and accept the responsibility of students, procedures, and entries. A school may participate in VASE whether or not a formal art program is in place on the campus. It is prohibited for a member teacher to register any other teacher's students with his/her TAEA number. A TAEA member/teacher may enter student artwork produced under his/her direct supervision as long as the student is not also working on that same artwork under a non-member's supervision. A violation of this rule will result in disqualification of the TAEA member's students, and the second art teacher's students.
- (B) **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:** All participating students must be academically eligible on the day of the VASE event, in accordance with the TEA UIL Side by Side Academic Requirements (**No Pass/No Play**) TEC 33.08C. A student need not be enrolled in an art class to have his/her work considered for submission. **A student's VASE artwork creation MUST be both SUPERVISED by, and SPONSORED by, the same individual TAEA member from their campus of record who SUPERVISED the creation of the work.** Participating students must be enrolled in the sponsoring school for 30 calendar days prior to the Regional Event. Artwork entered in a Regional Event is subject to rules, procedures and fees that apply at the Regional Event.

- (C) **SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS:** TAEA and host sites will not take responsibility for students. All participating students must have district-approved adult supervision at all VASE events, at all times. It is the Sponsor/Teacher's responsibility to have students checked in and at their assigned adjudication location 30 minutes before they are to be juried. Failure of the Sponsor/Teacher to do so can result in disqualification.
- (D) **NUMBER OF ENTRIES:** Any student who participates may enter a total of two works of art. No more than one student may work on a single entry.

Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS

(A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

(1) *Originality:*

(a) All student artwork in its entirety must have only original sources (original with the student).

- i. **Using/copying published images is not allowed. This also applies to song lyrics and other published literary works;** no non-original/published creative words should be used as either subject or background. Students are encouraged to incorporate their own words in their artwork if they choose. **Examples of non-original/published creative words include: song lyrics, poetry, plays, novels.**
- ii. Published material such as newspaper & magazine pages may be used **ONLY** as a textural ground or as collage material. Regarding ground/collage material containing non-original images; such imagery **MUST NOT** be recognizable and/or used in its entirety. **ALL** non-original images contained within ground/collage material **MUST** be repurposed and/or manipulated well beyond their original form/composition. **Examples of non-original/copyrighted images include: comics, licensed characters, artist-rendered illustrations, anatomical illustrations. (see more)**
- iii. Artwork cannot contain an image of, or make use of, a licensed character or characters (2D/3D).
- iv. Students must create the artwork from observation, their imagination, their experiences, or a photograph taken by the student who produced the artwork.
- v. Family photos of close family members or family events may be used as a source if not taken by a professional photographer or artist. The artwork should not be simply a compositional replication of the family photo. The source photo must be used as a part of **new visual or conceptual material**. Simply removing the source photo's background and/or changing its color(s) does not add personal creativity to the composition. **(see more)**
- vi. Images generated by AI (artificial intelligence) apps cannot be used at any stage in the development of a work of art intended to be entered in any VASE program level. AI tools scan other artists' works for their style and subject matter; **use of such images constitute plagiarism and do not abide by the VASE artwork originality rule. AI-generated images CANNOT BE COPIED, in part or as a whole.**
- vii. Composition and/or concept of the artwork must be original and may not replicate the artwork of another artist. **(see more)**
- viii. Automated electronic enhancements are not considered original when the program is making the sole artistic choice for the artist.
- ix. The artwork should not be a compositional replication of an automated electronic enhancement.
- x. **If a teacher has any doubt about the originality of an artwork, the work should not be submitted (refer to Checklist: Qualifications Criteria, p. 12).**
- xi. **Photographic references must be taken by, or directed by, the student artist. A student-directed photograph that is taken by another person (teacher, family, friend) MUST include the student artist in the photo.**
- xii. *No mechanically-copied/printed artworks* may be submitted as a substitute for the original artwork.

(b) **All** artwork must have the **Reference PDF** uploaded as part of the online student entry. Each page of the **Reference PDF** **can** contain up to **SIX** images. Students may also type info that exceeds the 100 words allowed on the **Online Student Intent Form** (from this point on may be referred to as the **Online Intent Form**). **(see more)**

- i. The **Reference PDF** includes but is not limited to the students' own photographs, student sketches, student-directed self-portrait photographs, and production/reflection notes. If a photograph was used

as a source for any part of the student artwork, the photo **must be** part of the **Reference PDF**. **Student sketches and/or production/reflection notes may not be used as a substitute for a photographic reference image.**

- ii. The appropriate box(es) on the **Online Intent Form** must be checked citing the source(s) for the artwork. **A reference corresponding to each box checked must be included in the Reference PDF.**
 - iii. A detailed description of the source of the image (for example, who took the photo and where it was taken) must be written in the appropriate section on the **Online Intent Form**.
 - iv. Photographic entries must have basic identifying information included in a **Reference PDF** (contact sheet, production notes, etc.). Further elaboration is written elsewhere on the **Online Intent Form**.
- (c) No one other than the artist of record may work directly on or manipulate any artwork entered in VASE; this includes parents, teacher/sponsors, mentors, and other collaborators.

(2) Art Production:

- (a) Artwork previously entered in a Junior VASE event cannot be re-entered in another VASE event.
- (b) All artworks submitted must be completed between the previous year's Regional Event and the current year's Regional Event.
- (c) The number of credits for a student entered must be according to the current number of credits at the time of the regional event. Each semester counts as .5 (half) credit. **Students not currently enrolled in an art class can enter VASE if a sponsoring teacher on their campus supervises the entry. If the student participates in VASE more than one year, they must move up a division each year.**
- (d) It is the responsibility of the student artist to secure direct permission from any model who poses or whose image is utilized within their artwork.
- (e) A TAEA member/teacher may enter student artwork produced under their direct supervision. VASE student artwork entries cannot be worked on or produced under **any other private teacher's supervision.**

(3) Inappropriate/Offensive Works of Art: TAEA/VASE adheres to displays of artwork that are family friendly.

- (a) The following subject matter is inappropriate for VASE and is prohibited.
 - i. **Any** artworks that include profane references to a deity, obscene language, **use of any drugs** or drug paraphernalia, images of suicide/**self-harm**, or criminal violence.
 - ii. Artworks that include any image or language that is recognized as discriminatory toward any race, ethnicity, religion, culture, disability or gender/**identity**.
 - iii. Artworks that include completely exposed female breasts (with or without nipples), imagery of any gender genitalia including bare buttocks, and/or suggestive or explicit sexuality.
- (b) Teachers must receive the campus principal's signature on the **Regional Entry Certification/Teacher Check In-Out Form** verifying the artwork has been reviewed and the content is approved.

(4) Specifications of Two-dimensional Artwork (including Digital):

- (a) Two-dimensional artwork must be no larger than 24" X 36", including mat or mount.
- (b) Artwork cannot exceed a weight of 50 pounds.
- (c) Textiles, canvas paintings, and shaped canvases do not require mats or mounts.
- (d) All other 2-D artworks must be matted or mounted with sturdy white or black mat board or poster board with full supportive attached backing.
- (e) No liners or additional inner mats allowed.
- (f) No glass or acetate coverings will be accepted in the preparation of artworks.
- (g) A frame or box may **only** be used as long as it is incorporated as part of the artwork imagery.
- (h) All artworks must be dry or fixed.
- (i) Delicate, fragile or relief 2-D pieces must be in a box. A duplicate **Artwork ID Form**, and a photo no smaller than 5x7" of the artwork must be securely attached to the outside of the box.
- (j) **Artworks may not have anything attached or protruding that would be dangerous to handle.**
- (k) **All parts of the artwork must be safely secured and safe to handle.**
- (l) All 2-D artworks entered must have a protective fold-over/flap cover to protect the artwork.
- (m) Audio tracks in Animation/motion graphics entries that are not original to the student must not exceed 10% of the original audio composition, 30 seconds maximum.
- (n) Animation/motion graphics entries must not be longer than 5 minutes.
- (o) Animation/motion graphics projects must not include live actors.

- (p) Animation/motion graphics and interactive media entries must be accompanied by 1-4 still images no larger than 8.5"x11". **One image must be matted/mounted for display and identification following 2-D guidelines. A printable QR label will be available; it must be attached to the lower left of the mat.**
- (q) Students must provide their own platform for presenting their interactive media entry. In case entries are being considered during area or state judging, students must provide a word-processed document with operating instructions for playing the entry.
- (r) DVD or external portable storage device for animation/motion graphics must be put in a bubble padded, 9 x 12 envelope with the **Artwork ID Form** and a still image printed and attached to the front of the envelope. In addition, the media file must be uploaded onto an online platform (ex: YouTube channel), and that URL copied & pasted into the **Online Intent Form**.

(5) Specifications of Three-dimensional Artwork (including Digital):

- (a) Three-dimensional artwork must be no larger than 24" X 24" X 36" in total dimensions including base.
- (b) Artwork cannot exceed a weight of 50 pounds including the base.
- (c) Artwork must be sturdy and able to stand alone without other means of support.
- (d) Artworks may not have anything attached or protruding that would be dangerous to handle.
- (e) All parts of the artwork must be safely secured and safe to handle.
- (f) Greenware, oil-based clay, or unfired clay will not be accepted.
- (g) All work including casting, laser cutting, and 3D printing, must be done by the student.
- (h) If a sculpture has a base, the base must be attached. Installations not attached to a base must meet all size specifications and the student must set up and dismantle the installation.
- (i) Entries must be transported to the juror in an enclosed corrugated cardboard, wooden box, or plastic container with secured lid/top, and with adequate packing materials. All boxes must be suitable for shipping. Each artwork must be in its own individual box (do not put more than one artwork in a box).
- (j) The **Artwork ID Form** must be attached to the artwork.
- (k) A duplicate **Artwork ID Form** and a photo no smaller than 5x7" of the artwork must be securely attached on the outside of the box.
- (l) Three-dimensional artworks arriving without the proper packing will be disqualified.
- (m) Audio tracks in Animation/motion graphics entries that are not original to the student must not exceed 10% of the original audio composition, 30 seconds maximum.
- (n) Animation/motion graphics entries must not be longer than 5 minutes.
- (o) Animation/motion graphics projects must not include live actors.
- (p) Animation/motion graphics and interactive media entries must be accompanied by 1-4 still images no larger than 8.5"x11". One image must be matted/mounted for display and identification following 2-D guidelines. **A printable QR label will be available; it must be attached to the lower left of the mat.**
- (q) Students must provide their own platform for presenting their interactive media entry. In case entries are being considered during area or state judging, students must provide a word-processed document with operating instructions for playing the entry.
- (r) DVD or external portable storage device for animation/motion graphics must be put in a bubble padded, 9 x 12 envelope with the **Artwork ID Form** and a still image printed and attached to the front of the envelope. In addition, the media file must be uploaded onto an online platform (ex: YouTube channel), and that URL copied & pasted into the **Online Intent Form**.

(6) Specifications of Functioning Artworks:

Any artist who wishes the functionality of their VASE entry to be considered in the adjudication process should consider the options outlined below.

- (a) Instructions must be provided with the artwork describing the assembly and activation of the functionality, as well as where and how the components are packaged.
- (b) For the work to function during adjudication and display, all necessary items must be provided; for example, electrical extension cord/power strip, water, etc.
- (c) A URL or QR code may be provided with the entry documentation showing the artwork functioning. That video file, **no more than 30 seconds long**, can be uploaded onto an online platform (ex: YouTube channel), and that URL copied & pasted into the **Online Intent Form** to be viewed for adjudication only.

(d) If circumstances prevent activating functionality for judging and/or displaying the artwork, the URL, QR code, or written instructions will be used. **A printable QR label will be available for the video file; it must be attached to the stiff backing of the attached Artwork ID Form.**

(7) **Accurate Entry Regulations:** Any artwork not submitted accurately with correct paperwork having all required signatures will be disqualified. This includes an inaccurate student division or any hand alterations to any form after the edit deadline.

(8) **Durability Policy:** All submitted artworks, both 2-D and 3-D, must be durable enough to withstand handling and transportation. The structural integrity and durability is the sole responsibility of the student under the direction of their sponsor teacher. In an effort to protect student artworks, all 2-D artworks entered must have a protective fold-over/flap cover to protect the artwork and a backing that will make the artwork sturdy. Greenware, oil-based clay, or unfired clay will not be accepted. All 3-D artwork entered that is too fragile to travel may not be transported or exhibited at selected venues outside of the state event, including *Gold Seal* winners.

(B) **DISQUALIFICATION POLICY:** Artworks **not** meeting the VASE entry and eligibility regulations will be disqualified. However, disqualified artwork will be allowed to complete the jury process with a “No Rating” status. A juror will interview the student and place comments on the Regional Juror Rating Form for student growth, but no numeric rating will be given. The artwork will not be considered for advancement to the State VASE Event. The *Regional Juror Rating Form* will be marked with a DQ in the Rating Box. Only a Jury Lead or Qualifications Lead in caucus with the Regional Director may officially disqualify artwork.

(C) **DAMAGE OR LOSS POLICY:** While every effort will be made to prevent damage to any work of art, neither TAEA nor the host School/District will be held responsible for the theft, loss or damage of works entered in VASE.

Section I.3: ARTWORK CATEGORIES DEFINED

(A) **CATEGORY 2-D: Two-Dimensional Design**

Artwork that primarily has two dimensions (width and height).

(B) **CATEGORY 3-D: Three-Dimensional Design**

Artwork that has three dimensions (height, width and depth). The understanding is that the structure of the 3-D artwork is constructed by the student.

(C) **STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE to enter an artwork in the 2-D or 3-D category,** but students should consider that entering it in a non-traditional format could make it difficult to meet the criteria according to the standards.

(D) **A STUDENT USING A READY-MADE OBJECT as the surface for a traditional 2-D medium may choose to enter it as a 3-D artwork or as a 2-D artwork.** However, the student should consider that entering it as a 3-D artwork will make it difficult to meet the criteria because jurors consider 3-D artwork as that which is constructed by the student. An example of this type of artwork is a painting done on an actual guitar.

Section II: POLICY, PROCEDURES AND CODE OF ETHICS

(A) **ENTRY CERTIFICATION:** All official Regional entries in VASE must be entered on-line in the official TAEA/VASE website. All official forms will be generated through the data submitted. Any changes made to any official entry forms will result in disqualification. All entries must be listed on the ***Regional Entry Certification/Teacher Check In-Out Form signed by the school principal.*** Artwork that is confirmed on the ***Regional Entry Certification/Teacher Check In-Out Form*** must be the same artwork that is juried at the event. No artwork will be juried without a properly completed ***Regional Entry Certification/Teacher Check In-Out Form***. This form not only certifies that the students are academically eligible, but also that the artworks have been carefully examined by the school administration and found to be acceptable for students, the school, and the community. **Deadlines are firm and must be met without exception.** It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that the artwork that is adjudicated at the event is the same as the artwork registered on-line in the TAEA/VASE website. **Artwork MUST match the uploaded completed Artwork Photo.** The ***Regional Entry Certification/Teacher Check In-Out Form*** is turned in at Teacher Check-In.

- (B) **ENTRY FEES:** An entry fee per student, per entry is required to cover VASE expenses (medals, jurors, printing, etc.). The State Directors of VASE and *Blue Ribbon Committee* will set the entry fee for the regional and state events. All entry fees are non-refundable. All entry fees and Regional invoices must be received by the TAEA Office before an artwork can be juried. **Once a Reservation is confirmed at the Add/Delete deadline, the teacher/sponsor is required to pay for that entry even if the confirmed entry *Did Not Attend (DNA)* the event.**
- (1) **Regional Event** entry fees will be **\$15.00** per entry. Make school checks payable to TAEA. Payment must be mailed to the TAEA office **(or card payment processed)** a minimum of ten days prior to the Regional Event and accompanied by a Regional Invoice. No cash payments or parent personal checks are accepted.
 - (2) TAEA headquarters will coordinate funds for the Regional event.
 - (3) Student Entry Fees cannot be used to fund or support optional student activities, concessions, or promotional items (T-shirts, buttons, ribbons, pencils, notepads, etc.).
- (C) **Entry Categories: (As defined in Section I.3)**
- (1) Category 2-D -Two-Dimensional Design
 - (2) Category 3-D -Three-Dimensional Design
- (D) **Entry Procedures:**
- (1) It is understandable that problems may arise during the process of preparing student artworks; however, prior to teacher check in, the following must be completed.
 - (a) Teachers/Sponsors must register on arrival at the event; student artwork must be completely prepared.
 - (b) **Regional Certification/Teacher Check In-Out Form** is filled out and signed by the principal.
 - (c) All entries must be completed and Certified by the time they go through Online Qualifications (completed artwork photos, certified entry uploads, compliant artwork specifications and durability).
 - (d) Artwork must be inspected during Online Qualifications and certified by a Qualifications Worker according to the VASE Rules, Guidelines, and Policies before it can be juried.
 - (e) Each sponsor teacher must sign out and pick up their medals at the completion of the Area event. **Juror Rating Forms** can be printed by sponsor teachers once they are released by the Regional Director.
 - (2) **Online Student Intent Form:**
 - (a) An **Online Student Intent Form** is required for each entry.
 - (b) The **Online Intent Form** must be certified by the teacher of record prior to the event stating that, **"I certify that this artwork was produced under my direct supervision; I have examined it & its sources and found it to be acceptable for students, our school, and our community. I have read and agree to uphold all rules, regulations, policies and the Code of Ethics of the TAEA Visual Arts Scholastic Event."**
 - (c) Students must complete an **Online Intent Form** for each artwork entered before the posted **Upload & Certification Deadline**, answering the questions asked in complete sentences and in their own words. Jurors will use this written information to develop questions and evaluations during the interview. Students must use only the space provided online; information over 100 words can be included in the **Reference PDF**. Each response **MUST** contain at least 10 words (exception: "Did you use Electronic Media?" question has no minimum). **Students must NOT repeat phrases or sentences to reach this minimum.**
 - (d) Each 2-D artwork entered must have the **Artwork ID Form** (printed from Dashboard) securely attached to the center back of the artwork.
 - (e) Each 3-D artwork must have the **Artwork ID Form** (printed from Dashboard) glued or stapled to a stiff board and tied to the artwork.
 - (f) A copy of the **Artwork ID Form** along with a photo no smaller than 5 X 7" of all boxed 2-D & 3-D artworks must be attached to the outside of the packing box.
 - (g) The URL field is for Animations and Functioning Artworks only. Do not include other videos, including those showing different views of 3D Artworks.**
 - (3) **Titles:** The **Online Intent Form** calls for a unique, creative title. For identification purposes, each entry is required to have this. Students may not use generic descriptors such as *Painting, Drawing #1, Untitled, Self-portrait, Still Life*. Each piece of artwork registered by the same teacher must have a one-of-a-kind title.

- (4) **VASE Program Artwork Release Form:** Each teacher must complete a signed **VASE Program Artwork Release Form** for each student. A student who is not 18 by the time of the event must have a parent signature. **Signed VASE Program Artwork Release Forms will be collected by the teacher, alphabetized as a group, and turned in at Teacher Registration on Event Day before any of the Artworks can be adjudicated.**
- (E) **Disqualification Due Process: Procedure, Disciplinary Action, and Addressing and Resolving Challenges:**
- (1) **Procedure:** Failure by any VASE participant to uphold these rules, guidelines, or policies will result in disqualification of the artwork. The teacher/sponsor is notified of the disqualification and the teacher must then communicate the rationale for the disqualification to the student and parents (if applicable) because the compliance to VASE rules and guidelines is the responsibility of the teacher/sponsor. **Teachers/sponsors may no longer challenge a disqualification with the regional director once jurors have been dismissed; final judgment must be accepted professionally and with integrity.** Disqualified artworks will be allowed to complete the jury process with a “No Rating” status. Jurors will interview the student and place comments on the Regional Juror Rating Form for student growth, but no numeric rating will be given. The artwork will not be considered for advancement to the State VASE Event.
 - (2) **Disciplinary Action for Continued Disqualifications:** Continued failure by the teacher/sponsor to uphold these policies will result in an infraction email or letter from the State Director of VASE for that level, the TAEA President, and/or the TAEA Executive Director sent to the teacher/sponsor, campus principal, superintendent, and district supervisor (if applicable). The teacher/sponsor has the right to contest disciplinary action by bringing the issue before the *VASE Blue Ribbon Committee*.
 - (3) **Sanctions for Continued Disqualifications:** If, after a “Continued Disqualification” infraction notification is sent to supervisors, the teacher/sponsor continues to have disqualifications in subsequent years, disciplinary probation/sanctions will be imposed on the teacher/sponsor. The teacher/sponsor has the right to contest disciplinary action by bringing the issue before the *VASE Blue Ribbon Committee*.
 - (4) **Cause for Immediate Sanctions:** If at any time a teacher/sponsor or parent complaint escalates in a threatening or unprofessional manner towards a worker at a VASE event, the regional director, or any State VASE official after the complaint has already been judged and the result communicated with the teacher/sponsor or parent, that teacher representing herself/himself or the parent will be subject to sanctions prohibiting involvement in future events for a number of years determined by the TAEA Executive Board. Professional and respectful challenges of qualifications or adjudications are allowed.
 - (5) **VASE Blue Ribbon Committee Review:** Any entity involved in VASE and/or a TAEA member may at any time submit a suggestion to the State Directors of VASE/Executive Board for additions or revisions to the TAEA/VASE Policies & Procedures and/or the VASE Rules & Policies (Guidelines). Suggestions will be considered by the *VASE Blue Ribbon Committee* for rejection or implementation.
- (F) **VASE Code of Ethics:** The policies & code of ethics outlined in this section will be observed by all VASE participants.
- (1) **School Officials**
 - (a) provide support,
 - (b) create a climate of professional concern,
 - (c) strive to assure that teachers and directors are aware of and observe the letter and intent of all TAEA/VASE rules and regulations, and
 - (d) provide professional district employees as aides and/or interpreters when necessary.
 - (2) **Event Officials** administer the event with a spirit of courtesy and cooperation among participants.
 - (3) **Jurors (adjudicators):** A VASE Juror (adjudicator) is a visual arts advocate who has a history of working within visual arts as a working artist, art educator, museum/gallery professional or art related vendor who possesses training, experience and/or a degree enabling them to apply ethically and impartially VASE standards to the adjudication process.
 - (a) In order to serve as a VASE Juror for TEAM, Junior VASE or VASE, certification training must be completed successfully and maintained according to the program’s guidelines.
 - (b) Beginning during VASE 2022, a State VASE juror MUST be an active and currently paid member of TAEA.
 - (c) Jury Leads at all levels MUST be certified jurors.
 - (d) Jury Leads must be TAEA members and certified art educators. They may only serve as a Lead at one event in a region.

- (e) **Juror Ethics:** Jurors (adjudicators) will observe the policy and ethic codes of TAEA and VASE and uphold the **VASE Juror Code of Ethics & Professional Standards**. Jurors should maintain confidentiality both during the adjudication process and after the VASE Event.
- (f) **SEL Note:** During the interview process, jurors may not comment (written or verbal), address or insinuate judgment about a student's wellness or mental health to the student. If a juror has safety concerns regarding a student's wellness or mental health, they must not address the concern to the student, but will communicate directly with the Jury Lead/Regional Director who will communicate with that student's VASE sponsor.
- (g) Violation of VASE Rules & Policies and/or event procedures can result in warning, sanction, and immediate dismissal from an Event, and/or removal from the VASE Juror Pool.
- (h) **Removal of Juror:**
 - (i) Violation of TAEA/VASE Policy/Ethics or **VASE Juror Code of Ethics & Professional Standards**
 - (ii) Unprofessional behavior towards a VASE participant or sponsor in terms of commentary on wellness, appearance, and mental health. During the adjudication process, the juror may not sexually or emotionally harass an interviewee and shall maintain professional and ethical behavior at all times.
 - (iii) Chronic Event attendance issues.
 - (iv) Refusal to respond to directions from the Jury Lead/Regional Director including but not limited to pacing, commentary, scoring and other assigned responsibilities.

The complete **VASE Juror Code of Ethics & Professional Standards** is available on the VASE Juror home page.

(4) **Visual Arts Teachers/Sponsors**

- (a) know and uphold all rules as stated in the TAEA/VASE Policy and Ethics and General Regulations,
- (b) foster a spirit of artistic involvement and aesthetic achievement for all participants in the event,
- (c) instill by word and example the respect for, and compliance with, all event regulations and the graceful acceptance of qualification and adjudication,
- (d) abstain from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities,
- (e) abstain from any practice which allows **plagiarism** to violate the ethical standards of quality art education and the VASE program, and
- (f) appropriately supervise all participating students.
- (g) All teachers/sponsors are required to be present during the check-in and checkout process, collecting all artwork not advancing to the State Event and completing any necessary paperwork.
- (h) If the teacher of record is unable to be present at check-in or check-out, a campus designee must be appointed by the campus administrator prior to the event to bring students and collect the artwork. This information is recorded on the **Regional Certification/Teacher Check In-Out Form**, which requires principal signature.
- (i) Failure to uphold the Policy and Code of Ethics can result in student disqualification and/or teacher probation recommendation being forwarded to the State Director of High School VASE and TAEA Executive Board.

(5) **Students**

- (a) know and respect the rules and regulations, and
- (b) maintain a sense of educational purpose while participating in VASE.
- (c) Failure to uphold VASE Policy and Code of Ethics can result in a disqualification.

Section III.1: CRITERIA FOR ADJUDICATION

(A) **VASE STANDARDS/CRITERIA:**

- (1) The **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills** (*State Board of Education, Chapter 117*) will form the nucleus of the evaluation standards for the juried competition.
- (2) VASE artwork will be evaluated on the following criteria (**TAEA/VASE Artwork Standards** set by the *VASE Blue Ribbon Committee*):
 - (a) **Student Research and Application to Work:** The purpose or message of the artwork or any artist's works or styles that influenced it.

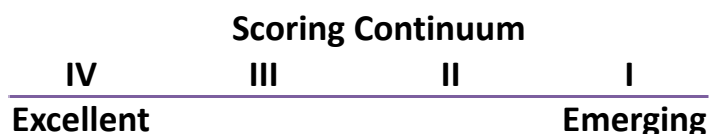
- (b) **Sources for Artwork:** Detailed explanation for artwork sources. As examples, originality of photos and where they were taken, the idea behind work from the imagination.
 - (c) **Execution and Technique:** The steps for using the technique, the medium/media, technology applications, and the elements of art and principles of design.
 - (d) **Aesthetics and Critical Judgment:** The aesthetic and critical decisions made while creating the artwork and why they were made.
 - (e) **Personal Expression:** How the artwork represents the student's individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality.
- (B) **VASE DIVISIONS:** When determining in which division to place a student's artwork, teachers will count the number of art credits earned by February 1st of that year's event. Each semester completed counts as .5 (half) credit. Any student enrolled in any High School Credit Class will automatically be placed in Division 4.
- (1) The Visual Art Scholastic Event will have four three divisions:
 - (a) ~~Division 4 - (Advanced)~~ enrolled in art for High School Credit.
 - (b) **Division 3 - (Difficult)** 2.5 - 3 Credits earned in Art.
 - (c) **Division 2 - (Intermediate)** 1.5 - 2 Credits earned in Art.
 - (d) **Division 1 - (Beginning)** 0 - 1 Credits earned in Art.
 - (2) Any returning VASE participant must advance at least one division per year of subsequent VASE participation.
 - (3) Teachers may advance a student to a higher division at their discretion, but they may not place them in a lower division.

Section III.2: REGIONAL ADJUDICATION PROCEDURE

- (A) **Jurors:** Each event will have a team of qualified jurors composed of certified public school art educators, supervisors and/or, **if available**, college faculty, university faculty, or art professionals. It is recommended that jurors be selected from outside the district or region that is being juried, **if possible**.
- (B) **In-Person Participants** must be present for an eight-minute individualized interview with a juror on the **day of their assigned Regional Event**, at which time the juror will score the elements of the **Juror Rating Form**.
VIRTUAL PILOT: Students who are part of the Virtual Pilot will have their Intent Form and Reference PDF writing count for the Student Interview Score.
 - (1) **In-Person:** The **Student Interview** will receive a score for each of the five sections based on a point system of 4 (highest) to 1 (lowest). **Virtual: The Student Interview score earns up to 3 points for each of the five sections from 3 (highest) to 1 (lowest).**
 - (2) The **Artwork Evaluation** will receive a score for each of the five sections based on a point system of 8 (highest) to 2 (lowest) for that student's division.
- (C) **Scoring Criteria, Student Expectations, and Rating Descriptors:**
 - (1) The juror will assign **Student Interview** scores based on the following criteria:
 - **Student research and application to work:** Explain purpose (assignment or individual) in developing artwork and describe how one achieved their desired goal.
 - **Artwork Sources:** Explain in detail the sources for your artwork.
 - **Execution and technique:** Identify the technical skills related to the media/medium employed in this artwork.
 - **Use of elements and principles of art:** Explain the process used to select and organize the visual aspects of this work.
 - **Aesthetics and critical judgment:** Describe the aesthetic and critical decisions involved in developing this work from original concept to finished product.
 - **Personal Expression:** Describe ways in which the artwork represents individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality.
 - (2) The juror will assign **Artwork Evaluation** scores based on artwork evaluation criteria outlined in Section III.1, Criteria for Adjudication. A.2 (above) while considering **Juror Rating Form** descriptors, which are based on the referenced criteria.
 - **Student Research and Application to Work:** The purpose or message of the artwork or any artist's works or styles that influenced it.

- **Sources for Artwork:** Detailed explanation for artwork sources. As examples, originality of photos and where they were taken; the idea behind work from the imagination.
 - **Execution and Technique:** The steps for using the technique, the medium/media, technology applications, and the elements of art and principles of design.
 - **Aesthetics and Critical Judgment:** The aesthetic and critical decisions made while creating the artwork and why they were made.
 - **Personal Expression:** How the artwork represents the student's individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality.
- (3) **Student Expectations according to Division Level.** Jurors keep student level expectations in mind as they consider whether or not the student meets the scoring criteria.
- **Division IV:** Students demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply elements and principles of design in their own creative style, display a disciplined attitude toward a variety of visual phenomena, and display highly advanced technical skill in the production of quality works of art.
 - **Division III:** Students demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply the elements and principles of design in their own creative style, display a disciplined attitude toward a variety of visual phenomena, and display advanced technical skill in the production of quality works of art.
 - **Division II:** Students demonstrate an understanding of, and ability to apply, the elements and principles of design in their own individual creative style and display technical skill in the production of quality artworks.
 - **Division I:** Students demonstrate an understanding of, and ability to apply, the elements and principles of design in their own individual, creative style.
- (4) **Rating Descriptors:** Jurors will evaluate artwork in each classification by employing the following rating system to designate the degree of proficiency in which the student developed the VASE standards leading to the level of artistic quality within their work:

RATING IV: Excellent (*in meeting the criteria*)
RATING III: Strong (*in meeting the criteria*)
RATING II: Developing (*in meeting the criteria*)
RATING I: Emerging (*in meeting the criteria*)



- (D) The juror will include written comments with suggestions as a positive and immediate feedback. **The juror's decision is final.** The Jury Lead for each Regional Event will certify all Regional and Area results.
- (E) The Regional Director or appointee will be responsible for *verifying* the **Juror Rating Forms** and medals and/or certificates by division for all event participants.
- (F) **Scheduling Formula** – Up to thirty (30) entries on a ten-minute schedule per juror.
- (G) Jurors will evaluate artwork by employing the following rating system to designate the assessment score assigned to an artwork:

<u>Points on Juror Rating Form for Regional/Zone Event</u> Rating IV Excellent = 60 – 51 Rating III Strong = 50 - 37 Rating II Developing = 36 - 25 Rating I Emerging = 24 - 15	For 2026 Virtual Pilot Entries, the point range for Rating IV is: Rating IV-Excellent = 55-51
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- (H) To maintain the integrity of the jury process, only jurors and designated event officials are permitted in any area where the jury process is in progress.
- (I) **No awards or results should be given until after area judging is complete, and student artwork advancing to state is removed from the area judging site. All sponsors must check out through the regional director.**
- (J) **AWARDS: Regional Medals** are awarded at the Regional Event to those students receiving a Rating IV-Excellent in any Division (1, 2, 3 or 4). All other students will receive a **Regional Participation Certificate** from the Teacher/Sponsor.

Section III.3: AREA EVENT (PLATINUM Selection)

In Person Entries: The Regional Event may also serve as the Platinum Event, where State finalists are selected. All regional entries receiving a Rating IV-Superior qualify for the Area jury process. When all regional artworks have been juried, and all scores have been entered online, the Area jury process may begin.

VIRTUAL PILOT: Students who are part of the Virtual Pilot Event are not eligible for Platinum Level. Virtual Pilot Artworks receiving 4 ratings will not be on the floor for the Area Event and will NOT count in the 10%-per-division formula for Platinum Level Award selection.

- (1) **In Person** Regional artworks that have received a Rating IV-Superior will be juried again, by a select group of designated jurors, to determine the Platinum finalists. No artwork with a rating less than a Rating IV qualifies for the Platinum event.
- (2) Artwork must be juried in the same Division that qualified it for Platinum adjudication. No artwork may be moved up or down a division once a Regional rating has been given.
- (3) Jurors are allowed one vote for each artwork in their Area Division. The artworks receiving the majority of votes will earn a Platinum Medal (10% of those receiving a Regional 4 rating in-person in each Division).

Checklist of Qualification Criteria:

Violations include but are not limited to the following—

- a. Artwork is not matted or mounted. Canvas paintings, textiles and oddly-shaped artworks do not need mats/mounts.

- b. Artwork does not have a sturdy backing.
- c. Artwork has pieces attached or protruding that would be dangerous to handle. Pieces are not safely secured.
- d. Mat is not black or white.
- e. Artwork weighs more than 50 pounds.
- f. Artwork produced from a source not originating with the student/not falling within acceptable originality guidelines.
- g. Artwork contains an image of, or makes use of, a licensed character or characters.
- h. **Artwork ID Form** is not attached to the **correct** artwork.
- i. A photograph was used as a reference, but a copy of the photograph was not provided in the **Reference PDF**.
- j. Artwork's **Online Intent Form** does not have its source(s) check-marked and explained.
- k. **Artwork present at the event does not match the uploaded Finished Artwork Photo.**
- l. Artwork was previously entered in Junior VASE or a previous High School VASE.
- m. Artwork was completed before last year's Regional VASE. (Reference the last year's Regional Event date).
- n. Printed information on any VASE form was manually altered.
- o. Artwork and/or student information entered inaccurately (e.g. student division).
- p. Artwork content is inappropriate/offensive.
- q. Student artist is ineligible in accordance with the **UIL No Pass No Play Academic Requirements**.
- r. **Entry Fees are not paid.**
- s. Teacher/Sponsor is not a member in good standing with TAEA.
- t. Student artist is not accompanied by the Teacher/Sponsor of record (or designee assigned by the principal).
- u. **Regional Entry Certification/Teacher Check In-Out Form** is not signed by the principal.
- v. **Two-Dimensional Artwork will be disqualified for any of the following:**
 - i. Artwork and mat exceed 24" x 36", including mat.
 - ii. Artwork weighs more than 50 pounds.
 - iii. Artwork is covered with glass, acetate or cellophane that cannot be removed, or has non-incorporated frame.
 - iv. Drawings are not properly *fixed* and are in danger of damaging other artworks.
 - v. Mat on artwork includes a liner or additional inner (double) mat.
 - vi. Artwork is wet. (Paint, ink or another medium has not completely dried before being *qualified*.)
 - vii. Delicate, fragile, or high relief artworks are not in a box with a copy of the **Artwork ID Form**, & a photo 5x7" or larger of the artwork attached to the box.
 - viii. Protective fold-over/flap cover is not attached to the artwork as a protection for the work.
- w. **Three-Dimensional Artwork will be disqualified for any of the following:**
 - i. Artwork dimensions exceed 24" x 24" x 36".
 - ii. Artwork is not transported in an acceptable corrugated cardboard or wooden box or plastic tub suitable for shipping. Box does not contain proper packing to ensure artwork can withstand handling/transportation.
 - iii. Artwork doesn't have a copy of the **Artwork ID Form** & photo 5x7" or larger of the artwork affixed to the box.
 - iv. Artwork is not sturdy and/or cannot stand alone without other means of support.
 - v. If the sculpture has a base, the base is not attached.
 - vi. Artwork is wet or not fired. Greenware, oil-based clay, or unfired clay will not be accepted.
 - vii. Artwork is otherwise delicate, fragile, or potentially harmful to handle.
- x. **Animation/motion graphics, interactive media entries will be disqualified for any of the following:**
 - i. Audio track used for an Animation/motion graphics entry that is not composed by the student exceeds 10% of each non-original audio composition used, 30 seconds maximum.
 - ii. Animation/motion graphics entry is longer than 5 minutes.
 - iii. Entry file is not presented on an external storage device/DVD in a padded 9"x12" envelope with **Artwork ID Form** affixed to the outside of the envelope.
 - iv. Animation/motion graphics project includes live actors.
 - v. Animation/motion graphics and interactive media entries not accompanied by 1-4 still images no larger than 8.5"x11". Matted/mounted still image is not included (complies with 2-D guidelines).
 - vi. Word-processed document with operating instructions is not included with each interactive media entry.