VASE TEAM Rules & Policies 2023-24 (edits highlighted in yellow)

Purpose: This event will officially be named the **Texas Elementary Art Meet (TEAM)** and shall be under the supervision and direction of TAEA. The purpose of the TEAM level 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 under Rules & Policies on the VASE website.

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Section I: GENERAL REGULATIONS

- (A) **TEACHER ELIGIBILITY:** The *Texas Art Elementary Art Meet* shall be open only to full time students in grades preK-5 in all Texas *comprehensive (accredited)* public, private, charter or homeschools. 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 entry MUST be SPONSORED by the same individual TAEA member from their campus/studio 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 and advancing to State will automatically be entered in the State Event and is subject to rules, procedures and fees that apply at the State Event.
- (C) **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 II: ENTRY REGULATIONS

(A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

(1) Originality:

- (a) All student artwork in its entirety must have only original sources (original with the student).
 - Using/copying published images is not allowed. <u>This also applies to song lyrics and other</u> <u>published literary works</u>; 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.
 - 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 and/or 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 to create new visual or conceptual material.
 - vi. Images generated by AI (artificial intelligence) apps cannot be used in VASE, either as an original artwork or as a resource / reference image. AI-generated images are not the student's own creative and intellectual property; such images are generated by computers that scan other artists' work for style and subject matter.
 - vii. Composition and/or concept of the artwork must be original and may not replicate the artwork of another artist.
 - 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. Photographs taken by an art instructor are considered professional and are not allowed as references, unless the photograph is **of the student and is student-directed**.
- (b) No one other than the artist of record may work directly on or manipulate any artwork entered in TEAM; this includes parents, teacher/sponsors, mentors, and other collaborators.

(2) Art Production:

- (a) Artwork previously entered in a TEAM event cannot be re-entered in another TEAM event.
- (b) All artworks submitted must be completed between the previous year's Regional Event and the current year's Regional Event.
- (c) 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.
- (ed A TAEA member/teacher may enter student artwork produced under their direct supervision as long as the student is not also working on that same artwork under a non-member'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. Artworks that include profane references to a deity, obscene language, drug abuse or drug paraphernalia, images of suicide or criminal violence.
 - ii. Artworks that include any image or language that is recognized as negative toward any race, ethnicity, culture, or gender.
 - 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 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".
- (b) 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.
- (c) No liners or additional inner mats al
- (d) No glass or acetate coverings will be accepted in the preparation of artworks.
- (e) A frame or box may **only** be used as long as it is incorporated as part of the artwork imagery.
- (f) All artworks must be dry or fixed.
- (g) Artworks may not have anything attached or protruding that would be dangerous to handle.
- (h) 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.
- (i) Animation/motion graphics entries must not be longer than 5 minutes.
- (j) Animation/motion graphics projects must not include live actors.

(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) 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) 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.
- (j) Animation/motion graphics entries must not be longer than 5 minutes.
- (k) Animation/motion graphics projects must not include live act

(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 linking to examples showing the artwork functioning. In addition, a video file 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.

- (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.
- (B) **DISQUALIFICATION POLICY:** Artworks **not** meeting the TEAM 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 Top of TEAM. The *Regional Juror Rating Form* will be marked with a DQ in the Rating Box. Only a Jury Foreman or Qualifications Foreman 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 III: 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 IV: 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 Form* signed by the school principal. Artwork that is confirmed on the *Regional Entry Certification Form* must be the same artwork that is juried at the event. No artwork will be juried without a properly completed *Regional Entry Certification 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. The *Regional Entry Certification Form* should be uploaded prior to the certification deadline.
- (B) ENTRY FEES: An entry fee per student, per entry is required to cover TEAM 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 \$12.00 per entry. Make school checks payable to TAEA. Payment must be mailed to the TAEA office 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 events.

(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 III)

- (1) Category 2-D -Two Dimensional Design
- (2) Category 3-D -Three Dimensional Design

(D) Entry Procedures:

(1) Online Student Intent and Artwork Identification Form:

- (a) An Online Student Intent & Artwork Identification 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 should complete an Online Student Intent Form for each artwork entered before the posted Data 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. Each response MUST contain at least 10 words. Students must NOT repeat phrases or sentences to reach this minimum.
- (3) **Titles:** The Student 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) Student Agreement and Artwork Release Form: Each teacher must complete a signed Student Agreement and Artwork Release Form for each student. A student who is not 18 by the time of the event must have a parent signature. Release forms will be uploaded by the teacher into each entry at any time before the Upload / Certification deadline.
- (E) Disqualification Due Process: Procedure, Disciplinary Action, and Addressing and Resolving Challenges:
 - (1) Procedure: Failure by any TEAM 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 TEAM rules and guidelines is the responsibility of the teacher/sponsor. Teachers/sponsors may challenge a disqualification with the regional director, but 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 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.
- (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 that possesses training, experience and/or a degree that enables 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) 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 TEAM.
- (c) Failure to uphold VASE Policy and Code of Ethics can result in a disqualification.

Section V: 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.

Section VI: 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) The Artwork Evaluation will receive a score for each of the four sections based on a point system of 3 (highest) to 1 (lowest).

(C) Scoring Criteria, Student Expectations, and Rating Descriptors: 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.

(1) *Execution and Technique:* The steps for using the technique, the medium/media, technology applications, and the elements of art and principles of design.

(2) *Aesthetics and Critical Judgment:* The aesthetic and critical decisions made while creating the artwork and why they were made.

(3) *Personal Expression:* How the artwork represents the student's individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality.

Student Expectations according to Division Level. Jurors keep student grade level expectations in mind as they consider whether or not the student meets the scoring criteria. **Rating Descriptors:** Jurors will evaluate art work in each classification by employing the following rating system to designate the degree of proficiency in which the student developed

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

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Excellent	Strong	Developing	

The juror will include written comments with suggestions as a positive and immediate feedback. **The juror's decision is final**.

The Regional Director or appointee will be responsible for tabulating the *Jurors Rating Form* and medals and/or certificates by division for the participants entered in the event from the various schools.

Scheduling Formula – Up to thirty (30) entries on a ten-minute schedule per juror. Jurors will evaluate artwork by employing the following rating system to designate the assessment score assigned to an artwork:

Points on Jurors Rating Form for Regional/Zone Event

Rating III Excellent= 9-12 Rating II Strong = 5-8 Rating I Developing = 1- 4

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.

No awards or results should be given until after area judging is complete. All sponsors must check out through the regional director.

AWARDS: Regional Medals are awarded at the Regional Event to those students receiving a Rating III-Excellent in any grade level. All other students will receive a Regional Participation Ribbon.

Section VII: Top of TEAM

All regional entries receiving a Rating III-**Excellent** qualify for the Top of TEAM jury process. When all regional artworks have been juried, and all scores have been entered on-line, the Area jury process may begin.

(A) Regional artworks that have received a Rating III-**Excellent** will be juried again, by a select group of designated jurors, to determine the Top of TEAM finalists. No artwork with a rating less than a Rating III qualifies for the Top of TEAM.

(B) To ensure consistency across the State in selecting Top of TEAM, the following formula must be followed: Ten percent (10%) of the actual number of artworks receiving a 3 at the Regional event in each grade level.

(C) Jurors are allowed one vote for each artwork in a grade level for each artwork selected for advancement. The artworks receiving the majority of votes will be a Top of TEAM winner.

(D) AWARDS: Top of TEAM Medals are awarded at the conclusion of the Regional Event to students who qualify.

VIII. Checklist: Qualification Criteria

Violations include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Artwork produced from source not originating with student or falling within acceptable originality guidelines. g. Artwork contains image of or makes use of a licensed character or characters.
- B. Artwork was traced from a photograph and/or non-original source.
- C. Artwork was previously entered in a previous TEAM Event.
- D. Artwork was completed before last year's Regional TEAM event. (Reference last year's Regional Event date). n. Printed information on any TEAM form was manually altered.
- E. Inappropriate/Offensive work of art violation.
- F. Student artist is ineligible in accordance with the UIL No Pass No Play Academic Requirements.
- G. Entry Fees are not paid.
- H. Teacher/Sponsor is not a member in good standing with TAEA.
- I. *Regional Entry Certification Form* is not signed by the principal.

Two-Dimensional Artwork will be disqualified for any of the following:

i. Artwork and mat exceeds 24" x 36".

ii. Drawings are not properly *fixed* and are in danger of damaging other artworks.

vi. Artwork is wet. (Paint, ink or other medium has not completely dried before being qualified.)

Three-Dimensional Artwork will be disqualified for any of the following:

i. Artwork dimensions exceed 24" x 24" x 36".

ii. 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.

Animation/motion graphics, interactive media entries will be disqualified for any of the following:

i. Music not composed by student for Animation/motion graphics entry exceeds 10% or 30 seconds of each composition used.

ii. Animation/motion graphics entry is longer than 5 minutes.

iii. Animation/motion graphics project includes live actors.