Understanding Important Changes:

Important VASE Updates



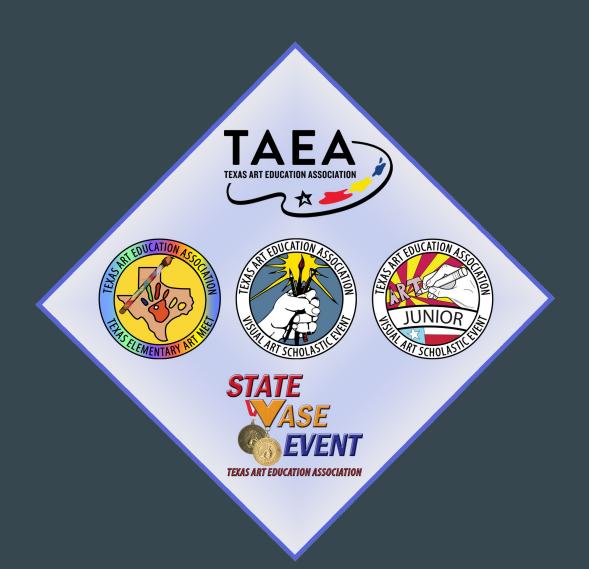
HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2026

VASE Mission:

High School (9-12) — Middle School (6-8) — Elementary (PK-5)

The mission of the TAEA Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) is to recognize exemplary student achievement in the Visual Arts by providing art students and programs a standard of excellence in which to achieve.

TEAM, Junior VASE, High School VASE, and State VASE: Equal Partners Under TAEA



VASE Structure:

State Director: TEAM
Tracey Hall

State Director: Junior VASE Larry West

State Director: High School VASE
Chris Cooper

State Director: State VASE Event Amy Semifero

VASE Blue Ribbon Committee:

Each year, the State Directors of VASE, under the TAEA Executive Director and President, select and convene the Blue Ribbon Committee to address concerns from VASE participants, and recommend changes needed to VASE Rules & Policies. This Board represents VASE events from all levels, and all parts of Texas.

The 2025 Blue Ribbon Committee met in July and confirmed that Junior VASE and High School VASE program events for 2026 remain in person, and TEAM 2026 remains online. This Committee continually strives to make VASE a positive learning experience to help guide Visual Arts students in developing their creative potential, while exercising each artist's expressive spirit. The safety of all involved is a driving priority.

A few Rules & Policies were modified, mostly to clarify the spirit of the rule, and to update language within the rules regarding required forms. TEAM's Rules & Policies has some changes for their 2026 online events, and all levels have a new deadline schedule. Finally, JR VASE is piloting NEW Virtual VASE Event status for some students.

In order to make the VASE Rules & Policies shorter and easier to read, Blue Ribbon Committee and State VASE Rules & Policies are separate documents. Each is referred to with directions to its live link within the body of the VASE Rules & Policies PDF.

These are the major changes to High School VASE, Junior VASE, and TEAM Regional Event Procedures:

- The Editing Deadline and Upload/Certification Deadline will be combined for all three levels of VASE.
- HS AP & Dual Credit, and JV HS Art 1, will no longer bump students up to Division 4 automatically. Private lessons for HS will still mandate Div. 4.
- JR VASE will participate in a Virtual Pilot Event in 2026.

<u>Please</u> consider serving as a 2026 VASE Juror for all levels, even if you don't teach that level. <u>If you are a Certified Juror, and haven't adjudicated since 2020, you'll be removed from the Certified Juror List, and will have to recertify to continue judging.</u>

MANDATORY TRAININGS:

Mandatory trainings will still be conducted. Regional Directors must offer the trainings; teachers choose to participate, and can earn CPE credit. <u>The number of trainings and their contents have been combined into 3 (from 6)</u>.

VASE will continue to enforce its "NO-FIX" policy.

All VASE Program teachers are <u>strongly encouraged</u> to attend these sessions to help them understand and navigate the entry process, meet deadlines, and guide students through the preparation and uploading of all parts of their entries.

VASE Modifications: NO-FIX reminders

"NO-FIX" is still policy for all levels: HS VASE, JR VASE, & TEAM.

- Teachers cannot ask the Regional Director to "fix" something that they have overlooked AFTER the stated deadlines.
- It is the Teacher's responsibility to double-check information needed by a particular deadline BEFORE that deadline.
- Teachers should help students plan VASE projects early, preferably during the Fall Semester, and begin work on Intent Forms & Reference PDF as soon as possible.
- Stated VASE deadlines are for Teachers; if things are needed from the student before
 a deadline, the <u>Teacher</u> needs to set an EARLIER deadline for students, up to a week
 ahead of time.
- The Student Data Deadline marks the end of <u>Student</u> Dashboard access for HS & JV; teachers have 3 more days to use their dashboards to check and fix things that students have entered.

VASE Modifications: NO-FIX reminders

How do State & Regional Directors support teachers & students?

- Updated support material about meeting deadlines is in the 2025-6 Teacher Resources for each level.
- An EBlast reminder will be sent to all members during the Fall Semester.
- Regional Directors will send email information to teachers that outlines ways to help get things done earlier and meet deadlines so that teachers and students will have sufficient time to complete their responsibilities meeting VASE deadlines.
- State Directors of VASE will lead informational conference sessions in Round Rock that teachers will be strongly encouraged to attend.

VASE Modifications: NO-FIX reminders

REMEMBER: You can't enter students on the website until after you sign up as a VASE Teacher on Dec. 1.

And, you <u>CAN</u> guide students through <u>part or all of the</u>
<u>entire entry process</u> before then and either:
--save electronic files on a school drive OR
--save paper copies of things in file cabinet folders.

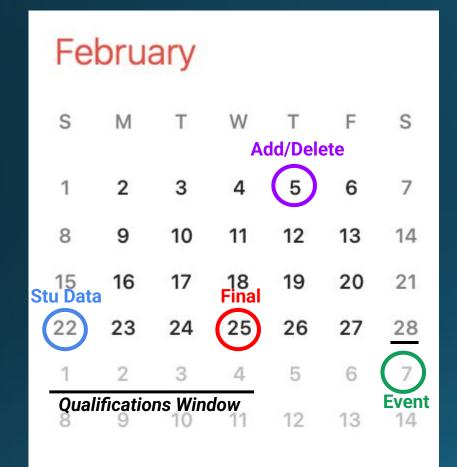
Then, you /your students can start entering & uploading what you've saved as soon as Dec. 1 rolls around.

VASE Modifications: New Deadlines for 2025-26

Prepare early for all deadlines:

- 1. Add/Delete (30 days before the Regional Event): The number of entries at midnight is how many you must pay for.
- 2. <u>Student Data Deadline for JV & HS (13 days before the Regional Event):</u> Students can edit Intent Forms and Upload until they lose their Dashboard access at midnight. <u>Teachers have 3 more days on their Dashboards to review and fix things.</u>
- 3. <u>NEW!!! FINAL DEADLINE (10 days before the Regional Event):</u> Teachers lose dashboard access after this. All of this data can be edited until midnight:
 - a. <u>Titles, Credits, Division and Name-spelling (former Editing Deadline things)</u>
 - b. Artwork Photo, Intent Form; Reference PDF for HS & JV (former Upload/Cert things)
 - c. HS & JV Entries MUST be CERTIFIED!!!
- 4. After the Final Deadline, HS & JV teachers can print Artwork ID Forms and Regional Certification / Check-In & Out Forms. *TEAM uploads Reg. Certification Forms*.

VASE Modifications: New Deadlines for 2025-26 (HS/JV) (TEAM)



Add/Delete (All)

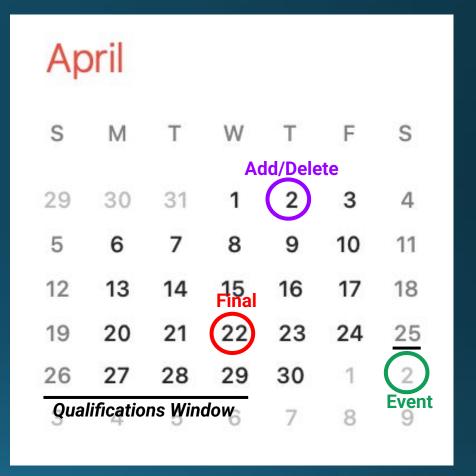
30d before Event

StuData (HS/JV)

13d before Event

Final (All)

10d before Event



Qualifications Window: officially M-W of the week before the Event.

Many Qualifiers do choose to begin Saturday/Sunday.

VASE Forms Modifications for 2025-26:

Artwork Release and the Practice Fillable Intent Forms are always available in both English and Spanish for teacher / student use.

This is especially helpful if teachers only have a student for the Fall Semester; all parts of the entry can be completed in the Fall.

Welcome to VASE!

TEACH. LEARN. ADVOCATE. CONNECT.

High School VASE, Junior VASE, TEAM, and State VASE — Equal Partners Under TAEA

The mission of the TAEA Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) is to recognize exemplary student achievement in the Visual Arts by providing art students and programs a standard of excellence in which to achieve.

Early Access to Forms

Teachers may download *Practice Student Intent and Artwork Identification Forms* and *Universal Artwork Release Forms* in the Teacher Manual appropriate to your teaching level at any time. You do not have to wait until VASE registration opens on December 1 to access these forms for students to begin work on their entry materials.

Register for VASE / View Teachers Manuals

Click on the link below that fits your program level.



High School VASE Grades 9-12



Junior VASE Grades 6-8



TEAM Grades PreK-5



<u>District</u> <u>Administrators</u>

VASE Forms Modifications for 2025-26:

FORMS: VASE Program Artwork Release Form (not used by YAM now, thus the name change)

The <u>VASE Program Artwork Release form</u> can be distributed and signed by parents at any time, starting as early as day 1 of school. This form will no longer be used for YAM/TASA-TASB.

Teachers can fill out their info, and xerox copies for all their students who might enter VASE. Teachers can also fill out their info, and the Student Name / Artwork ID, then print & send home.

Since teachers cannot access their print menu until after Teacher Registration opens on Dec.1, the VASE Program Artwork Release and the Fillable Practice Intent Form, both available in ENGLISH and SPANISH, are found in 3 places:



HS/JV/TEAM Home (center links)



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FORMS REMINDER: NEW DESIGN VASE Program Artwork Release

Top portion: Teacher & Student Info

Student Name	Entry ID #1		#2
Teacher of Record	TAEA#	School	14

Bottom portion: Other info/signatures

This permission applies to all VASE Program events, exhibit	s, and publicity	listed above fo	or the current scho	ool year.
Parent Signature <u>real signature</u> , not fillable (for student under 18)	Date	Pa	rent Phone #	
Parent Printed Name	Parent Email			
Student Signature real signature, not fillable	Date			
Student Personal Email	Age	DOB		

Most fields are fillable (PDF). However, the signatures must be <u>real</u>, not electronic.



ARTWORK RELEASE FORM: High School VASE, Junior VASE, TEAM

You can fill teacher part out, then xerox copies to pass out or email.

sponsored by the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA). I agree to each item in the bulleted list below, for myself and

I agree to abide by all TAEA Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) regulations and Code of Ethics.

my student (for myself if I am 18 or older). This includes the following:

EVENT

High School VASE, Junior VASE, and TEAM Events:



	Arts Scholasti from any and	ow my artwork to be displic Event on both the Regional Call responsibility in the e Now my artwork to be exhi	onal and High vent of loss o	School State I r damage to n	level. In do ny artwork	oing so, I release	e TAEA and			
	TAEA and wa	photographed, and/or published in educational, non-profit visual art publications and exhibitions chosen by the TAEA and waive any receipt or compensation for same.								
	TAEA Annual	 If my artwork is selected for High School VASE's Gold Seal recognition, I agree to allow it to be exhibited at the TAEA Annual Conference. I understand this will require my artwork to be in the possession of the TAEA from the conclusion of the State Event until November of the following school year. 								
	 Through High development may or may n that may resu images publis release such i 	School VASE's Gold Seal of a TAEA, Texas Commis- not be shown as part of a alt. I understand that the shed within the World Wi images as have been sub- the TCA and other venues	recognition, I ssion on the A live exhibition materials man de Web are n mitted with th	understand thats (TCA) and, n, on-line, and y be utilized on ot fully protect ne intention of	hat the im /or Texas I /or appea n-line and cted under	Education Agen r in a reproduct in publication f copyright laws	cy (TEA) inition series of orm and the With this	tiative and or book at graphic in mind, I		
	any live mode online, and/o	that it is my responsibility el to use their image in ar r appear in a reproductio	n artwork and on series or bo	that this imag ook that may r	ge may be esult.	used by the TAI	EA for live e	exhibition,		
	the exhibition	also given to list the studn(s), on-line, and/or in an eves as the VASE Student A	y related new	spaper article	, newslette	ers and educati	onal public	ations.		
\	This permission appli	es to all VASE Program ev	ents, exhibits	, and publicity	listed abo	ove for the curr	ent school	year.		
	rent Signature			Date		Parent Phone	#			
	(for student under 18)									
	Parent Printed Name _			Parent Email _						
	Student Signature			Date						
	Student Personal Email			Age	_DOB					
	TOUCATION CAN	STATE	TAE	EA 🕤	SHI LOVA	TON ASSE	EN LOUCATION ACCOUNTS			

VASE Forms: 2025-26

FORMS REMINDER: Artwork ID Form

HS & JR VASE In-Person Events— one form attached to artwork

The only form required on the back of artworks is the Artwork ID Form.

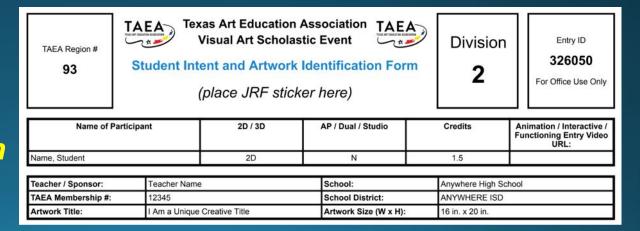
Print the page, cut apart, then tape or glue to the back of the artwork.

This form is available to print and attach after the Final Deadline.

No other forms are attached!

Each flat artwork needs a cover sheet.

Each 3D or fragile work needs a box with
the form attached to the artwork & box.



VASE Forms Modifications/Reminders for 2025-26:

FORMS: What to do with HS & JR VASE Forms

- Student Intent Form: filled out online in the Dashboard (start with the practice one early, then copy/paste into online form).
- Reference PDF: created and uploaded into the Dashboard. (not for TEAM)
- Artwork ID Form: printed and attached to the artwork.
- <u>VASE Program Artwork Release Form</u>: signed, turned in, then the teacher alphabetizes them & turns them in at the Regional Event. (uploaded by TEAM)
- Regional Certification/Teacher Check In-Out Form: signed, turned in at the Regional Event. (uploaded by TEAM)

VASE Rules Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES (1) Originality:

vi. Images generated by AI (artificial intelligence) apps cannot be used in VASE, either as the original artwork or as a Reference PDF 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. AI-generated images CANNOT BE COPIED, in part or as a whole.

Clarification: The last sentence was added to reinforce the VASE position the AI images cannot be used as a part or as the whole of a VASE Entry.

VASE Rules Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES (1) Originality:

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.

Clarification: Photo references are intended to reflect the student's life experiences, not the experiences of others, so the student artist must be in the photo to indicate that. The underlines and MUST in all caps is designed to emphasize this for understanding.

VASE Rules Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES (1) Originality:

- c) 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 FOUR 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*).
 - 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.

Update: The Reference PDF can contain more than four images per page as long as they do not overlap and are large enough to be seen in their entirety online.

VASE Rules Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

- (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, any drug use /drug paraphernalia, images of suicide/self-harm, or criminal violence.
 - ii. Artworks that include any image or language that is recognized as negative toward any race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or gender.

Clarification: This rule is meant to include depiction of ANY drug use, not just illegal drugs. The viewer does not have enough information to distinguish between legal and illegal/harmful prescription drugs. Also, blood & gore MUST refer to criminal violence/self-harm to be a DQ issue.

VASE Rules Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS (A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

- (4) Specifications of Two-dimensional Artwork (including Digital): and
- (5) Specifications of Three-dimensional Artwork (including Digital):
 - (a) 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.
- (6) Specifications of Functioning Artworks:
 - (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,

NEW: The addition of a QR label (also with Artwork ID and Title) is to help sorters and jurors at both Regional and HS State Events distinguish between a matted artwork and a matted Animation still image. It can also let gallery viewers watch animations when they tour the galleries.

Teachers will have the labels to print as needed for Animations and Functioning / Interactive artworks. Videos for Functioning / Interactive artworks are now limited to 30 seconds; no other videos should be uploaded.

Section III.1: CRITERIA FOR ADJUDICATION (HS VASE)

- (A) VASE DIVISIONS: When determining in which division to place a student's artwork, teachers will count the number of High School art credits (including those earned in middle school) earned by February 1st of that year's event. Each semester completed counts as .5 (half) credit. Any student enrolled in any Studio AP or preparing for submission of artworks or portfolios for AP or professional review, Dual/Concurrent Credit course, enrolled full time in outside private Art Studio will automatically be placed in Division 4.
 - (1) The Visual Art Scholastic Event will have four divisions:
 - (a) Division 4 (Advanced) 3.5 or more Credits earned in High School Art or enrolled in any Studion AP course or preparing for submission of artworks or portfolios for AP and/or professional review, Dual/Concurrent Credit Course, or enrolled full time in an outside private Art Studio.

NEW: For HS VASE, Studio AP and Dual/Concurrent Credit can no longer bump a student up to Division 4. Students in private Art Studio lessons will still be moved to Division 4, regardless of credits.

Section III.1: CRITERIA FOR ADJUDICATION (JR VASE)

- (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.

NEW: For JR VASE, students taking HS Art 1 will no longer be considered Division 4. They will be put in divisions by credits like other JR VASE students. JV Division 4 is removed.

Those in HS Art 1 as Middle School students will have their HS Art 1 credit counted when they enter HS VASE; they will begin in Division 2, provided they earned the credit.

TEAM RULES & POLICIES ONLY:

Section II, 1 (a) vii. Composition and/or concept of the artwork must be original; it may not replicate include parts, but not the whole, of another artist's artwork.

NEW: This is about aligning VASE more closely with how elementary art teachers develop student skill and creative process. Fifth and sixth grade teachers will need to prepare students for the stricter original creative property guidelines coming in JR VASE.

HS VASE RULES & POLICIES ONLY:

Section III.3: AREA EVENT (STATE ADVANCEMENT)

(3) To ensure consistency across the State in selecting artworks to advance from Area to State, the following formula must be followed: Ten percent (10%) of the actual number of artworks receiving a 4 at the Regional event in each division (Divisions 1 through 4) may advance to State.

Modification:

- (3) To ensure consistency across the State in selecting artworks to advance from Area to State, the following formulas must be followed:
- Divisions 1 and 2 8% of the actual number of artworks receiving a 4 at the Regional event may advance to State.
- Divisions 3 and 4 10% of the actual number of artworks receiving a 4 at the Regional event may advance to State.

UPDATE: The State Event has grown so much that we are outgrowing display spaces available at State VASE venues (gymnasiums). In order to ensure that State VASE can continue growing, while not outgrowing venues, we are returning to the percentages originally determined for State VASE Advancement from Regional Events.

STATE VASE EVENT RULES & POLICIES ONLY:

Section IV.2: STATE ADJUDICATION PROCEDURE

- (C) Artwork may be disqualified at the State VASE event. The State Director of High School VASE, the State VASE Event Director, and the State Jury Lead will collaborate to determine qualification. The artwork may be referred for qualifications review by a State VASE Juror, Regional Director, or State VASE Worker. Regional Directors will be consulted before disqualification is determined. If artwork is disqualified, jurors will still give student growth comments on the State Juror Rating Form, but a status of "No Rating" will be given in lieu of a numeric rating. The artwork will still be hung in the State VASE show.
 - Regional Directors with disqualified artwork must notify the teacher of the disqualified artwork
 before the dismissal of the State VASE Jurors on the Friday of the State VASE event in order for the
 student and parents to be notified by the teacher in a timely manner. Teachers/sponsors may no
 longer challenge a disqualification with the regional director once jurors have been dismissed on
 Friday; final judgment must be accepted professionally and with integrity.

UPDATE: The State VASE disqualified artwork notification deadline on the Friday of the event has been adjusted. It previously read 2:00 pm, which was before judging was completed.

Summary: JR VASE Virtual Pilot for 2025-26:

JR VASE will offer a 2026 Virtual Pilot option (limited to 20% of a teacher's entries). Depending on success, the pilot could continue as is, or be modified after Exec. Board/Blue Ribbon review, for 2027.

All entries will be entered & prepared as usual, following the same deadlines as In-Person entries. Teachers will submit a <u>Virtual Status Request Form</u> for selected students only to the Regional Director. Regional Directors will have the list of reasons that can be approved; their decision, with backing from the State Director, is final. <u>Teachers can only request up to 20% of their total entries to participate in the Virtual Event Pilot.</u>

Entry fees AND Deadlines will remain the same for both In-Person and Virtual entries (all invoiced on one Regional Certification Form). All entries will be qualified during Online Artwork Qualifications. The same Teacher Dashboard will be used for all entries.

ONLY Regional Directors will be able to change In-Person to Virtual status in the online system. The RD would review the request and approve it or not, based on the reason stated. <u>Requests</u> <u>would be due by the Final Deadline.</u>

Summary: JR VASE Virtual Pilot for 2025-26:

Approved Virtual Entry Artworks will be prepared like all other entries, and brought to the Regional Event by the teacher; they will be turned in at a Virtual Entry check-in table located near Teacher Registration, then distributed to Jurors.

Judging will occur at the Regional In-Person event by Virtual Jurors already on the Event's Juror Panel who will be selected by the Jury Lead/Regional Director.

Virtual Entries will have a maximum JRF score of 55. Each Student Interview criterion will only be able to score 3 points instead of 4, due to the student not being present for an actual interview.

The Interview score will be based on Online Intent Form & Reference PDF data, so teachers should work with Virtual students on writing complete answers so that jurors will have as little need for more information as possible.

Summary: JR VASE Virtual Pilot for 2025-26:

Virtual entries WILL NOT be eligible for Platinum Level. Once ALL entries are adjudicated both In-Person and Virtual, they will be delivered to the Sorting Room together.

Rating 4 artworks can be taken to the Gallery for viewing: if they are, Virtual Entries will be separated from In-Person entries, and not considered for Platinum.

Since virtual entries cannot be more than 20% of a teacher's entries, teachers should still be able to count towards District of Distinction since they will have mostly in-person entries.

JUNIOR VASE RULES & POLICIES ONLY: regarding Virtual Pilot

Section III.2: REGIONAL ADJUDICATION PROCEDURE

- B. In-Person Participants <u>MUST</u> 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. <u>VIRTUAL PILOT:</u> 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).
- G. (the following statement is added beside the scoring range graphic)

 For 2026 Virtual Pilot Entries, the point range for Rating IV is: Rating IV-Excellent = 55-51

JUNIOR VASE RULES & POLICIES ONLY: regarding Virtual Pilot

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.

CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

State Directors of VASE

TEAM: Tracey Hall team@taea.org

Junior VASE: Larry West jrvase@taea.org

High School VASE: Chris Cooper hsvase@taea.org

HS State Event: Amy Semifero statevase@taea.org