

Understanding Important Changes:

Important VASE Updates

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2027

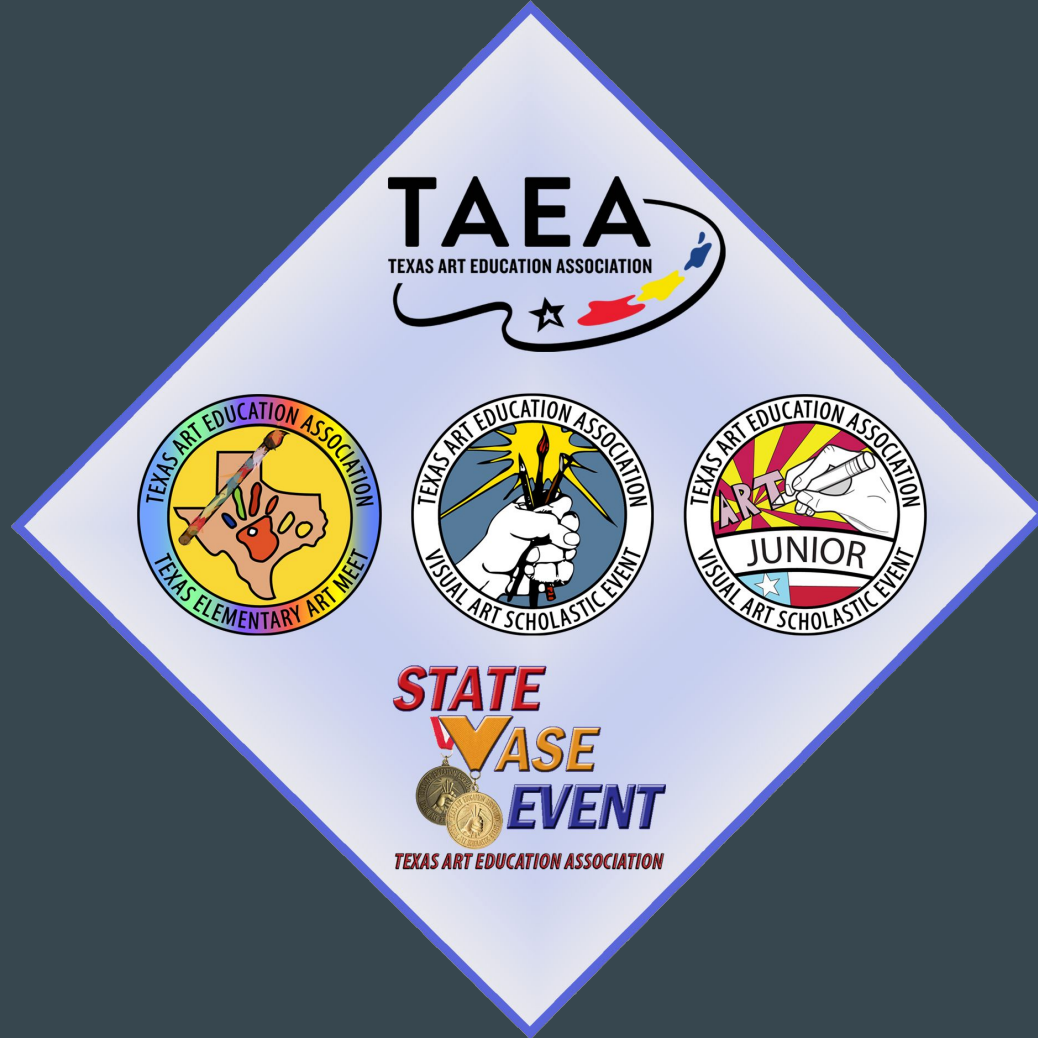


VASE Mission:

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
Amy Semifero

State Director: High School VASE
Chris Cooper

State Director: State VASE Event
Mikaela Bachmann

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 2026 Blue Ribbon Committee met in July and confirmed that Junior VASE and High School VASE program events for 2027 remain in person, and TEAM 2027 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 HS & JV 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 also has some modifications to their 2026 rules. Finally, JR VASE is piloting for a second year an In-Absentia VASE Event for some students.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2026-27:

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

- **For HS and JR VASE, the Artwork ID Form will be replaced by a printed copy of the Student Intent Form on the backs/boxes/3D tags of all artworks.**
- **The regional event venue may choose not to display artwork that does not align with community standards. Such decisions will not affect the artwork's eligibility for adjudication or advancement within the VASE process.**
- **The JR VASE Pilot Event has been re-named “In-Absentia Pilot Event”.**

Please consider serving as a 2027 VASE Juror for all levels, even if you don't teach that level. If you are a Certified Juror, and haven't adjudicated in five years, you might be removed from the Certified Juror List, and will have to recertify to continue judging .

VASE Rules & Policies modifications for 2026-27:

VIRTUAL ONLINE MEETINGS:

Three Virtual Meetings will still be offered to teachers. Regional Directors must offer the trainings; teachers choose to participate, and can earn CPE credit. This year, TAEA is starting an online registration link process for all trainings offering CPE credit. Teachers will need to register for these meetings.

All VASE Program teachers are encouraged to register for and 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. Teachers new to VASE are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

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 Teacher needs to set an EARLIER deadline for students, up to a week ahead of time.**
- **The Student Data Deadline marks the end of Student 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: Supporting Teachers

How do State & Regional Directors support teachers & students?

- Updated support material about meeting deadlines is in the 2026-27 Teacher Resources for each level.
- 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 sessions at the TAEA Fall Conference that teachers will be strongly encouraged to attend.

VASE Modifications: Starting Early!

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

And, you CAN guide students through part or all of the entire entry process 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: Deadline Reminders

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. Download invoice and request payment ASAP.
2. Student Data Deadline for JV & HS (13 days before the Regional Event): Students can edit Intent Forms and Upload until they lose their Dashboard access at midnight. Teachers have 3 more days on their Dashboards to review and fix things.
3. FINAL DEADLINE (10 days before the Regional Event): Teachers lose dashboard access after this. All of this data can be edited until midnight:
 - a. Titles, Credits, Division and Name-spelling (former Editing Deadline things)
 - 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 Student Intent Forms and Regional Certification / Check-In & Out Forms. TEAM uploads Reg. Certification Forms.

VASE Modifications: Deadline Reminders

(HS/JV) (TEAM)

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

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

Add/Delete (All)
30d before Event

StuData (HS/JV)
13d before Event

Final (All)
10d before Event

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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

Qualifications Window: officially M-W of the week before the Event.
Many Qualifiers choose to begin Saturday/Sunday.

VASE Forms Reminders:

Both the VASE Program 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.

Documentation / Uploads

Please refer to this chart for what you and your students will need to gather to fulfill each program's requirements.

	State VASE	HSVASE	JRVASE
Artwork	N/A: Previously Uploaded for Regional Event	Dashboard Upload	Dashboard Upload
Student Intent Form	N/A: Previously Uploaded for Regional Event	Fill out online	Fill out online
Reference PDF	N/A: Previously Uploaded for Regional Event	Dashboard Upload	Dashboard Upload
Regional Entry Certification Form	N/A	Turn in at event	Turn in at event
State Entry Certification Form	Turned in at Regional Event	N/A	N/A
Universal Artwork Release Form	N/A: Turned in at Regional Event	Turn in at event	Turn in at event
Check-In / Check-Out Attendance Verification Form	Turn in at State event	Turn in at event	Turn in at event

Register for VASE / View Teacher Resources

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](#)



[District](#)
[Administrators](#)

FORMS REMINDER: Artwork Release

A point has been added to the form to let parents know that students may be photographed at the State Event. Signage will let students know this.

Top portion: Teacher & Student Info

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

Bottom portion: Other info/signatures

This permission applies to all VASE Program events, exhibits, and publicity listed above for the current school year.

Parent Signature	<i>real signature, not fillable</i>	Date		Parent Phone #	
(for student under 18)					
Parent Printed Name		Parent Email			
Student Signature	<i>real signature, not fillable</i>	Date			
Student Personal Email		Age		DOB	

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

	ARTWORK RELEASE FORM: High School VASE, Junior VASE, TEAM				
Student Name		Entry ID #1		#2	
Teacher of Record		TAEA #		School	
You can fill teacher part out, then xerox copies to pass out or email.					
I give permission for my student to enter artwork in any VASE Program related events, exhibitions and/or contests sponsored by the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA). I agree to each item in the bulleted list below, for myself and my student (for myself if I am 18 or older). This includes the following:					
High School VASE, Junior VASE, and TEAM Events:					
• I agree to abide by all TAEA Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) regulations and Code of Ethics. • I agree to allow my artwork to be displayed and critiqued by selected jurors in conjunction with the TAEA Visual Arts Scholastic Event on both the Regional and High School State level. In doing so, I release TAEA and its agents from any and all responsibility in the event of loss or damage to my artwork. • I agree to allow my artwork to be exhibited, displayed electronically on the TAEA and VASE Website, 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. • 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 School VASE's Gold Seal recognition, I understand that the image(s) submitted may be used in the development of a TAEA, Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) and/or Texas Education Agency (TEA) initiative and may or may not be shown as part of a live exhibition, on-line, and/or appear in a reproduction series or book that may result. I understand that the materials may be utilized on-line and in publication form and that graphic images published within the World Wide Web are not fully protected under copyright laws. With this in mind, I release such images as have been submitted with the intention of exhibition and presentation at the facilities of the TEA and the TCA and other venues selected by the TAEA. • I understand that it is my responsibility as the artist to secure written permission/consent, where possible, from any live model to use their image in an artwork and that this image may be used by the TAEA for live exhibition, online, and/or appear in a reproduction series or book that may result. • Permission is also given to list the student's name, age and school facility of origin within the information used in the exhibition(s), on-line, and/or in any related newspaper article, newsletters and educational publications. • This form serves as the VASE Student Agreement and Artwork Release Form as listed in VASE Program Rules & Policies.					
This permission applies to all VASE Program events, exhibits, and publicity listed above for the current school year.					
Parent Signature		Date		Parent Phone #	
(for student under 18)					
Parent Printed Name		Parent Email			
Student Signature		Date			
Student Personal Email		Age		DOB	
This permission applies to all VASE Program events, exhibits, and publicity listed above for the current school year.					
Parent Signature		Date		Parent Phone #	
(for student under 18)					
Parent Printed Name		Parent Email			
Student Signature		Date			
Student Personal Email		Age		DOB	
					

VASE Form Change: Student Intent Form will replace Artwork ID Form on the back/box/tag of all artworks.

HS & JR VASE Events—

The only form required on the back of artworks is the Student Intent Form. Print the page, 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.

TAEA Region #	Texas Art Education Association Visual Art Scholastic Event Student Intent Form			Division	Entry ID For Office Use Only
Name of Participant	2D / 3D	Private Lessons	Credits	Animation / Interactive / Functioning Entry Video URL:	
Teacher / Sponsor:	School:				
TAEA Membership #:	School District:				
Artwork Title:	Artwork Size (W x H x D):		in. x in. x in.		
1. Sources for Your Artwork — Check <u>all</u> that apply to your artwork. All sources must be uploaded into one Reference PDF (5 MB max), and follow VASE guidelines. Not Uploaded					
☐ I worked from one or more original photos. They are either photos I took myself, directed someone else to take of me, or belong to my family as part of our history. Who took the photo(s), when and where?					
☐ I worked from one or more original sketches, observation, and / or my imagination.					
☐ I am entering an original photograph. Do NOT check this box if you just took reference photos for a drawing, painting, etc.					
2. Student Research and Application to Work — Explain the purpose or message of your artwork or any artist's works or styles that may have influenced you.					
3. Execution and Technique: What medium/media did you use to produce your artwork AND why did you choose this medium/media?					
If any digital applications or processes were used for any part of your artwork, explain all.					
Explain how you produced this artwork (discuss your medium/media, technique, and / or process).					
Explain the most important elements and principles you used to develop this artwork.					
4. Aesthetics and Critical Judgment — Describe the aesthetic and critical decisions you had to make while creating this artwork and why you made them.					
5. Personal Expression — In what ways does this artwork represent your individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality?					
I certify that this artwork was produced under my direct supervision and that I have examined it and 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 Art Scholastic Event.					
Teacher / Sponsor's Signature _____ Date _____					

VASE Forms Modifications/Reminders:

FORMS: What to do with HS & JR VASE Forms

- Online 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)
- Student Intent Form: printed and attached to the artwork.
- VASE Program Artwork Release Form: 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. (Regional Certification uploaded by TEAM)

VASE Rules & Policies modifications:

Section I.1: GENERAL REGULATIONS

(A) TEACHER ELIGIBILITY: The *High School Visual Art Scholastic Event* shall be open only to full time students in grades 9-12 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. **In the case of Virtual/Online Schools within a district, the student must have a district-assigned art teacher/instructor to be able to participate; cannot be a parent/guardian.**

Clarification: Students enrolled in an online school that is part of a district are enrolled in the district, and must have a district VASE sponsor.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications:

Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS

(A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

(1) *Originality:*

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~~ cannot 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.

Clarification: Changes are intended to clarify and strengthen the rule.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications:

Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS

(A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

(1) Originality:

vii. Composition and/or concept of the artwork must be original to the student artist and may not replicate the artwork of another artist individual.

Clarification: Changes are intended to clarify and strengthen the rule.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications:

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.

(c) The regional event venue may choose not to display artwork that does not align with community standards. Such decisions will not affect the artwork's eligibility for adjudication or advancement within the VASE process.

Clarification: This additional point was added to allow various venues, including Regional Galleries, to align with their community standards. If an artwork is not displayed during gallery walk time, it WILL still be included as part of the Area Judging process.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications:

Section I.2: ENTRY REGULATIONS

(A) RULES AND GUIDELINES

- (4) Specifications of Two-dimensional Artwork (including Digital):***
- (5) Specifications of Three-dimensional Artwork (including Digital):***
- (6) Specifications of Functioning Artworks:***

Section II: POLICY, PROCEDURES AND CODE OF ETHICS

(D) Entry Procedures:

- (2) Online Student Intent Form:***

Checklist of Qualification Criteria:

These Sections all include a Form Change: The Artwork ID Form will be replaced with the entire Student Intent Form on the back of 2D, and attached to boxes and 3D tags. Students and Jurors will be able to view what was written in response to form questions again.

VASE Rules & Policies modifications: TEAM only

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).

ix. ~~The composition and/or concept of~~ The artwork must be original in composition in both its idea and overall design. Students may take inspiration from artists, but should use their own ideas, style, and creative choices to create something new. Using small details or techniques is acceptable but copying or closely recreating another artist's work is not. The use of any videos is prohibited. Lessons from any internet resource is not acceptable. ~~it may be inspired by and include part but not the whole of another artist's work~~

Clarification: This re-write clarifies that students can use details or techniques from artists they have studied, but they may not re-create another artist's work, or use ideas from published videos or internet resources.

Summary & Changes: JR VASE “Virtual” Pilot 2

JR VASE will offer year 2 of a “Virtual” Pilot option in 2027. The name of the pilot will change to “In-Absentia” from “Virtual”. This change will be reflected in JV Rules & Policies for 2026-27.

Reminders: All entries will be entered & prepared as usual, following the same deadlines as In-Person entries. Teachers will submit a In-Absentia Status Request Form 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. Teachers can only request up to 20% of their total entries to participate in the In-Absentia Event Pilot, year 2.

Entry fees AND Deadlines will remain the same for both In-Person and In-Absentia 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 In-Absentia status in the online system. The RD will review the request and approve it or not, based on the reason stated. Requests will be due by the Final Deadline.

Summary: JR VASE In-Absentia Pilot 2:

Approved In-Absentia 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 In-Absentia 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.

NEW for 2027!!!

In-Absentia Entries will have **NO JRF SCORE PENALTY**. Each Student Interview criterion will be able to earn up to 4 points each just like those entered in the In-Person Event.

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

Summary: JR VASE In-Absentia Pilot 2:

NEW for 2027!!!

Virtual entries **WILL** be eligible for Platinum Level. Once ALL entries are adjudicated, both In-Person and In-Absentia, they will be delivered to the Sorting Room together.

All Rating 4 artworks can be taken to the Gallery for viewing: In-Absentia Entries will NOT be separated from In-Person entries, and **WILL be considered for Platinum Level.**

Since In-Absentia 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.

JR VASE Rules & Policies modifications:

JUNIOR VASE RULES & POLICIES ONLY: regarding In-Absentia Pilot

Section III.2: REGIONAL ADJUDICATION PROCEDURE

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. **IN-ABSENTIA PILOT: Students who are part of the In-Absentia 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). **In-Absentia: The Student Interview score also can earn up to 4 points for each of the five sections from 4 (highest) to 1 (lowest).**

G. (the following statement is added beside the scoring range graphic) **For 2027 In-Absentia Pilot Entries, the point range for Rating IV is: Rating IV-Excellent = 60-51.**

JR VASE Rules & Policies modifications:

JUNIOR VASE RULES & POLICIES ONLY: **regarding In-Absentia 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.

IN-ABSENTIA PILOT: Students who are part of the In-Absentia Pilot Event are also eligible for Platinum Level. In-Absentia Pilot Artworks receiving 4 ratings will also be on the floor for the Area Event, and will count in the 10%-per-division formula for Platinum Level Award selection.

- (1) **In-Person All** 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: Amy Semifero jrvase@taea.org

High School VASE: Chris Cooper hsvase@taea.org

HS State Event: Mikaela Bachmann statevase@taea.org