



Dear Teachers, Administrators and Students considering participation in Alaska Poetry Out Loud:

As we enter the new year of Poetry Out Loud, we hope you will join us! The Alaska Poetry Out Loud partnership team at the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council and the Alaska State Council on the Arts is pleased to open registration for Alaska Poetry Out Loud in the 2024-2025 school year!

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country. Rather than being a simple exercise in memorization, learning to recite poetry encompasses college and career ready skills, including structural analysis, interpretation of meaning, point of view, close-reading and the use of higher order thinking skills.

Each winner at the state level receives \$200 and competes in the national finals. The state winner's school receives \$500 for the purchase of poetry materials. The first runner-up in each state receives \$100, with \$200 for their school. At the national finals, a total of \$50,000 in awards and school stipends is awarded annually. Students and chaperones participating at the Alaska State and National Poetry Out Loud Recitation Competitions receive travel support to Juneau or Washington, DC for competition. Students gather for a competitive and collegial experience with peers, to engage with both poetic voice and civic opportunities in our capital cities.

We encourage all to participate, whether you're representing your school or participating as an individual; we intend participation in Poetry Out Loud to be simple and accessible to all! Both public and private schools are eligible to participate in AK POL. Alaska students currently enrolled in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate in Alaska Poetry Out Loud, with an exception made for 8th-grade students participating in a 9th- through 12th-grade class.

At the school level of Alaska Poetry Out Loud (AK POL), each school including grades 9-12, public or private, coordinates its own competition. School winners participate in a region-wide competition, with regions to be determined in coordination with the AK POL Partnership Team, following the registration period. School Registrants for AK POL should hold a schoolwide competition, and work with regional competition organizers to submit between at least one, and no more than three student competitors to the regional competition, representing your school.

AK POL also offers Individual At-large Student Registration, when there is not an AK POL School Competition available. The AK POL Partnership Team will work with individual, at-large, student registrant to identify a local POL Liaison who can support them through the process, and we will also try to connect individually registering students with a local school, or AK POL Regional Competition, as available.

In 2024-2025 Alaska Regional POL Competitions will include both in-person or video-adjudicated competitions, across the state. The AK POL Partnership is open to the option for schools to come together for in-person AK POL Regional competitions, when two or more schools are available to compete in your region. To host an in-person regional competition in 2024-2025, schools and at-large student registrants must:

- 1) Coordinate within the region to hold the competition according to the Poetry Out Loud Guidelines at <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/teachers-organizers/organize-a-contest/>.
- 2) Include participants from multiple schools within a geographically defined region.
- 3) Consult with the AK POL Partnership Team on the definition/designation of an in-person region; regional competition coordinators must report AK POL Regional winners and runners-up to the AK POL partnership team no later than February 3, 2025.

To compete directly in the regional level of competition as an individual at-large student competitor, please consider the following guidelines:

- 1) An at-large, individual student participants must identify an AK POL School teacher/liaison/coach, who has agreed to be a point of contact with the AK POL Partnership Team, and
- 2) If the student's school is registered for AK POL, the student must participate in the school competition. If more than three, at-large, individual student participants register from any school entity, the school must determine the students who will proceed forward to the regional level of competition.

We recognize that the experience of participation in video adjudication and in-person competitions is different for students across the state. To increase the parity of experience for students leading into the Alaska State Competition, each student will be required to recite two poems from the Poetry Out Loud Anthology at the Alaska Regional Competitions—both in-person and via video adjudication.

The Alaska State Finals Competition gathering will be held in-person, in Juneau, March 9-11, 2025 (*tentative*), and the Alaska State Council on the Arts will coordinate with AK POL State Finalists to book travel for the student finalist and a chaperone, to attend the AK POL State Competition.

The AK POL State Competition will be held on the evening of March 10th; this date will be confirmed no later than October 8, 2024. As required by the rules of the National Poetry Out Loud Recitation Competition, each student will be required to recite three poems from the Poetry Out Loud Anthology at the Alaska State Poetry Out Loud Finals Competition, in accordance with the Poem Eligibility Rules.

Alaska Poetry Out Loud Registration for 2024-2025

[Deadline to Register is November 15, 2024](#)

Visit <https://www.jahc.org/education/poetry-out-loud/> to register!

The Online registration form will ask questions about teachers participating in Poetry Out Loud at your school and will ask you to identify a POL Liaison to help facilitate communication with the Alaska Poetry Out Loud Partnership Team.

Should more than three students register from a single school, where the school is not registered, the AK POL partnership team will consult and coordinate with that school in mounting a school competition. Guidance for organizing a competition at the classroom and school competition is available at: <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/teachers-organizers/organize-a-contest/>. Please note that in the case where a school does not have enough students to hold a classroom or school competition, AK POL's Regional level of competition will meet the program guidelines for eligibility.

Visit <https://www.jahc.org/education/poetry-out-loud/> to access the following resources:

- Online Registration for 2024-2025 Alaska Poetry Out Loud (by November 15, 2024)
- News and updates on the Alaska Poetry Out Loud Program
- Information about the Alaska Poetry Out Loud Process and complete timeline
- Video archive of past Alaska Poetry Out Loud State Competitions
- Recommended tools and resources for Alaska Poetry Out Loud

Visit <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/> to access the following resources:

- National Poetry Out Loud Anthology
- Lesson plans and other Teacher resources
- Resources for organizing and judging a contest
- Video and audio recitations from Student Poetry Out Loud Competitors, Tips on Reciting and information about what it's like to compete

We encourage teachers and families to use the many free resources included on the National Poetry Out Loud website at <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/>, in working with students who love poetry, whether you register for Alaska Poetry Out Loud, or not. The Poetry Out Loud Anthology, Lesson Plans and other resources on the site are geared to high school-aged students, but we hope that educators seeking resources for teaching poetry will consider adapting materials as developmentally appropriate for your students.

Alaska Poetry Out Loud Partnership Contacts: Qacung Blanchett at POL@jahc.org, (907) 586-2787 or Laura Forbes at the Alaska State Council on the Arts at laura.forbes@alaska.gov, (907) 269-6682. Check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AKPOL49/>.



Complete Alaska Poetry Out Loud Timeline for 2024-2025

September 1, 2024

Poetry Out Loud online anthology live for 2024-25 school year

September 13 – November 15, 2024

Alaska Poetry Out Loud (AK POL) Registration for schools and at-large participants open

November 15, 2024

Deadline for AK POL Registration

Prior to winter break

- Recommended completion of classroom/school competitions
- Communication/Coordination with AK POL School Liaisons and At-large Student registrants about in-person and video-adjudicated Regional Competitions.

January 27, 2025

Deadline for submission of video recitations for Alaska Video-adjudicated Regional Competition

February 3, 2025

Deadline to hold In-person Regional Alaska Poetry Out Loud Competitions

January 30 – February 2, 2025

Alaska Regional Poetry Out Loud Video Adjudication

February 4, 2025

Announcement of AK POL State Finalists!

February 7, 2025

AK POL State Finalist online meet-and-greet (zoom)

February 7 – March 8, 2025

AK POL distance coaching, coordination, and preparation

March 9 - 11, 2025 (tentative – updates to be made no later than October 8, 2024)

Alaska State Poetry Out Loud in Juneau (Competition to be held the evening of March 10th)

March 20, 2025

Deadline for state champs and chaperones to register for National Finals

May 5 - 7, 2025

Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington, DC

More about Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life. Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Foundation, and the state and jurisdictional arts agencies.

Since 2005, Poetry Out Loud has grown to reach more than 4 million students and 65,000 teachers from 16,000 schools in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

Poetry Out Loud students must read closely to determine what the text says, and are then asked to use the highest order thinking skills possible to translate and create what they know about the text into a unique performance that uses subtle gesture, posture and physical presence to embody the meaning of words. Poetry Out Loud supports learning for all students, as each one is able to approach it from his or her own level AND as the program aligns with the Alaska ELA standards.

Our hope for Poetry Out Loud, is that teachers will embrace the program as a teaching and learning tool that supports ongoing curriculum and is required of every student for credit. We know that many of the greatest successes happen by surprise, and often students who would never view themselves as successful in this area may discover a new opportunity and strength. Many teachers admit that they would never have imagined students being able to do what it took to create an imaginative and engaging performance as they witnessed from students in this program. Students can discover very important ideas and concepts that will stay with them forever.

Please consider involving ALL your students in every class regardless of the level. AP students may excel, but so might your ELL students, or those with specific needs that usually require adaptation. The arts level the playing field for all, and the National Poetry Out Loud program website includes accessibility guidance within the teaching resources section. Thank you for your commitment to your students. Our goal is to support you in using the arts to reach your students - all of them.