



## ***Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media invites you to participate in Pennsylvania's 2024-25 Poetry Out Loud Contest!***

You are invited to join other high schools across the country for the annual [Poetry Out Loud \(POL\) national arts education program!](#) Your high school's champion will participate in one of the 14 regional finals from around Pennsylvania and these champions will participate in the [PA state finals organized by the PA Council on the Arts](#), currently scheduled to be held on March 10, 2025. Please visit [Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media's POL webpage](#) for updated information and previous regional winners. PCA&M's Arts in Education and POL service region includes Allegheny, Beaver, Greene, and Washington counties. PA's state champion will participate in the national finals, currently scheduled for May 5-7, 2025 in Washington, D.C.

Participation in *Poetry Out Loud* encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. **Free, standards-based curriculum materials are available for schools, teachers, and students.** Please see and download the [2023-24 Guide for Teachers and Organizers](#) from the Teachers and Organizers section of the POL website. Studying literature, including poetry, addresses at least three Anchor Assessments as per the PA Core ELA Standards: Speaking and Listening (SL. 9-10, SL 12-11), Reading (RL. 9-10, RL 11-12), and Language (L. 9-10, L 11-12). You may refer to the [Teachers and Organizers](#) section of the POL website for more information regarding [NCTE, Common Core, and National Core Arts Standards](#) and for additional ideas and information on how to incorporate Poetry Out Loud into your curriculum.

- *POL's 2024-25 Teachers and Organizers Guide* offers suggestions so that you can **customize** the program to meet your time and schedule constraints.
- *POL's Fact Sheet* includes information regarding the positive impact of participating in the program.

### **Getting Involved**

- Individual teachers or a group of teachers, a school club, an entire school, homeschoolers, and/or community organizations may participate.
- Teachers may determine the extent of their participation – from incorporating *POL* into a

unit of study to offering *POL* as an extra credit or after school project – or use some or all of the [lesson plans](#) offered on-line.

Whatever type of program you plan to implement, the end result should be **one winner from your school who will participate in PCA&M's regional competition currently scheduled for *Saturday, February 1, 2025* with **February 8** as the snow date.**

### **What Must Students Do?**

Choose three poems from the *POL* on-line anthology, master anthology, or print anthology to read, memorize, and recite. Please go to: <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/> Students may also download and use a new, free *POL* app developed by the Poetry Foundation to find, save, and practice poems for the competition on their phones or tablets: [App Store \(iOS\)](#) or [Google Play Store \(Android\)](#)

- Recitations may not include props, costumes, or music. Some gestures and minimal movement may, however, be appropriate to a given poem.
- Each school's winner is eligible to participate in the regional contest on ***February 1, 2025***.
- Participants will prepare [three \(3\) poems](#) to recite for the regional contest.
- Each **regional winner** will participate in PA's state contest on March 3, 2025.
- The state winner will receive \$200 and an all-expense paid trip (with a chaperone) to Washington, DC to compete for the national championship May 5-7, 2025.
- The state winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend to purchase poetry books. A runner-up in each state will receive \$100 with \$200 for his/her school to purchase poetry books.

### **Questions?**

Contact Mary Brenholts [mbrenholts@pfpca.org](mailto:mbrenholts@pfpca.org) or 412-606-4723.

**Please complete PCA&M's 2024-25 Intent to Participate Form and return it to Mary via email by January 3, 2025 (earlier is better!) so we can register you and keep you informed!**

