



Pennsylvania
Thespians

Supports



Theatre
IN OUR
Schools
— MONTH —

Theatre in Our Schools Month Challenge: Working with your Troupe & School host or co-host 5+ events.

Goal:

- For PA Schools to grow their participation with Theatre in our School (TIOS) month (March).
- Share your school's passion and voices with your school, community, and even PA & US Legislators
- Show why theatre matters & grow school community awareness of TIOS Month

Requirements & Timeline:

- Monday December 28th, 2026 -- As a Troupe Submit 1 (one) registration form –
- January 1st, 2027 through April 29th, 2027 -- Plan 5+ advocacy, outreach, activities or events
 - o If you co-host an event with another troupe/school, this event can count for both of you
- Friday April 30th, 2027 -- Final Submission Due
- Monday May 24th, 2027 -- Schools notified with rubric and level earned

Important Links & Documents:

- Troupe Registration Form - <https://forms.gle/jSXBf2Fveq93He6o9>
- Final Submission Form - <https://forms.gle/FxNtYGKYWXuupJxi8>
- Rubric - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g38kG8EEtLebNnyEJdaebOxhvNdGAUs/view?usp=sharing>

As You Complete Events:

- Take photos, videos, and/or other multimedia or written responses to document your events
- Save/copy any social media posts, posters, displays, marketing/advertising, etc.
- Testimonials from targeted contacts, thespians or other attendees
- Track responses & successes (how many attendees, amount of participants, etc.)
- Anything you've created or shared to support TIOS month

Definitions:

- Events = Advocacy, Outreach, Activities, or Events

- Stakeholders = members of your troupe, members of your school, parents/guardians/adults, school administrators, district administrators, community members, younger students (elementary & middle school), school board members, Harrisburg representatives and/or senators, Washington DC representatives and/or senators.

Examples of Events

- Writing a letter to your Principal or School Board
- Creating a new Activity for school community or younger students
- Taking a trip to see another troupe's show or participate in their TIOS Event
- Inviting your Principal to speak at a Thespian meeting, address your audience at a show, or attend your induction ceremony
- Invite school or district admin to rehearsal, stage crew/crew call or production
- Hold a talk back before or after a production or event for younger students
- Host an advocacy meeting to discuss why Theatre & Arts Education matters

For Final Submission:

- In the Final Submission, for Each event you'll submit
 - o Event Title
 - o If Event is New this year
 - o When it was,
 - o What it entailed,
 - o Participation/attendance count,
 - o If it included stakeholder groups
 - o If you co-hosted with another group (and the group if you did)
 - o Any other information you want to share
- Link to Folder which includes all evidence you want to share
 - o You need 1+ piece of evidence per event submitted
- Reflection Questions
 - o What was your favorite event you ran and why? What did you learn or gain from it? (Student #1, #2, #3 – 3 separate questions, 1 per leader noted)
 - o What was your highest participation level event, and why do you think it succeeded so well?
 - o What was your lowest participation level event, and what would you do differently in the future to increase participation?
- Optional Reflection Questions
 - o If you co-hosted with another troupe, what did you gain or learn from them?
 - o If you attended another troupe's event, what did you notice or learn from them?
 - o Anything else you want to reflect on or share?

Questions:

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Please email with questions or ideas for TIOS and Advocacy

PA Thespian Chapter Governing Board. Advocacy Chair

Looking to form a PA Advocacy Team. Email me if you are interested!

PA Arts Education Leadership Coalition. Founder, former Chair, and PA Thespian Chapter/Theatre Representative

EdTA States Advocacy Alliance. PA Thespian Chapter Representative

Optional:

- The Thespian Troupe is encouraged to register TIOS activities with the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) at www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/tios and complete the final activities and documents as listed.
- Please note: If the Troupe decides to participate with the EdTA Advocacy TIOS activities, the deadlines for these activities must be followed.
- The Troupe Director and/or advocacy interested students are encouraged to register for and attend EdTA's Virtual Advocacy Summit.
 - o <https://s1.goeshow.com/edta/advocacy/2026/index.cfm>
- Premier Communities for Theatre Education - <https://schooltheatre.org/premier-communities/>
 - o Due March 11 2027
- EdTA Outstanding Impact Award - <https://schooltheatre.org/awards/tios-outstanding-impact-award/>
 - o Due April 15th 2027
 - o Prize through Disney Theatrical Productions & MTI (possible full show license!)

TIOS Month Information & Resources

- [PA Thespian Chapter. Advocating for Advocacy.101. 2025-2026.](#) Advocacy Workshop presented at PA Thespian ThesFest 2026. Zoom presentations are also pending. Review this slideshow for an introduction to the PA Arts Education Leadership Coalition (PAELC) and the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) Arts Advocacy work. HINT. Find ideas for TIOS!
- PA Arts Education Leadership Coalition (PAELC). [Leading the Way](#) Information about collaboration in PA with Dance, Fine Arts, Media Arts, Music, and Theatre State Organizations that are collaborating to support you. You have arts teachers in your building and district who are involved in their state organizations as listed. Reach out and Collaborate with them. HINT. All the arts celebrate their brand of arts education in March! Collaborate!
- PA Arts Education Leadership Coalition (PAELC). [Career Readiness Workshop.](#) Presented at the 2026 PA Department of Education SAS Institute. The focus is on how arts education prepares students for all careers, not just the arts. HINT. There are many embedded resources.
- The Educational Theatre Association. Theatre in Our Schools Month. <https://schooltheatre.org/advocacy/tios/> HINT. This is where you can register for national involvement in TiOS and prizes. EdTA has gathered the best ideas for the last couple of years and is adding more content by the end of January and beyond!
- The Educational Theatre Association. [Advocacy at EdTA.](#) States Advocacy Alliances for each State and Thespian Chapter are mobilizing in each state either as new entities or updating existing collaborative arts groups and initiatives. The PA Thespian chapter already began the idea in 2020 with our representation and collaboration with PAELC. We are a leading chapter in this work with EdTA.
- To find your PA Voting District and your State Representative and Senator [CLICK HERE.](#) You can then find their Harrisburg and PA office addresses, emails, and phone numbers.
- To find your US District & Representative [CLICK HERE.](#) You can then find their DC and Pennsylvania office addresses, emails, and phone numbers.
- We all share the same US Senators, but you can access their information [CLICK HERE.](#) Type in “Pennsylvania” and you will get live links to call or email them in DC or at their Pennsylvania offices.