

2021-22 IESA Speech Contest Format

The current health and safety guidelines create a unique challenge for speech rehearsals and contest. The Speech Advisory Committee is recommending a small change in the contest format for the 2021-22 school year to help facilitate a return to in-person contest. The Committee will also continue to recommend an allowance for schools to conduct their own contest.

Format: Schools will be assigned to smaller contest area for the goal of an in-person contest **that meets the guidelines set forth by the CDC, the Illinois Department of Public Health and local health and safety standards**. Schools will also have the option to host their own local contest instead of attending a multi-school event.

The Speech Advisory Committee recommends that hosts use a time-slot scheduling format as opposed to block/session scheduling. This will allow for facilitating smaller numbers in the performance rooms.

Dates: All contests whether hosted as a group or individually could begin Oct. 29th and would end Nov. 13th.

Contest Sites: Schools will be broken into 40+ areas based on the group allowances in place at the time.

Contest fees and Participant Information: For multi-group contests, fees and participant information will be collected through the IESA. Schools hosting their own contest instead of attending a state contest would collect fees and participant information locally.

Eligibility: Please make sure that students are academically eligible for your contest.

Events: Schools may select those events they feel comfortable in performing within current social distancing guidelines.

Adjudication Forms: IESA will provide adjudication forms to hosts. Schools hosting their own contest instead of attending a state contest would be able to access to adjudication forms for each contest.

Rules: All contest rules and limitations apply.

Judges: Each host will select their own judges. No judge representatives will be assigned by the IESA Office.

Awards: Will be sent to host schools for their contest. Schools hosting their own contest instead of attending a state contest would order awards through the IESA Office.