

## 2025-2026 School Year Reflections Theme: "I Belong"

### Get Started Today!

This checklist is for Local Unit Reflections Chairs and Local PTA Executive Boards. It provides step-by-step instructions for launching, promoting, judging, and submitting entries for the National PTA Reflections Program.

- **Theme:** *I Belong!*
- **Council Reflections Chair:** Shannon Gilmer (Area 2 Council Treasurer)
- **PTA Eligibility:** Local Unit PTAs must be in **Active Status by October 27** or entries will not be judged.

### Immediate: Required Actions (August 2025)

1. **Friday, August 22, 2025:** Confirm Participation & Provide Reflections Chair Contact Information  
Complete the [Local Unit Participation Form](#)
2. **Sunday, August 24, 2025 @ 7-8 PM via Zoom:** Local Unit Reflections Chair Training  
(Zoom link will be emailed to Reflections Chairs and posted on the Area 2 website).  
*\*If the Reflections Chair is unable to attend, another PTA board member must attend in their place.*
3. **August:** Register with National PTA  
Let National PTA know your local unit is participating register here: [National PTA Reflections Registration](#)
4. Budget for Reflections: Ensure the Reflections program is included in your PTA's annual budget.

### August 2025: Organize & Plan

- Share this document with your executive board & school leadership
- Establish a local timeline with launch, deadline, and celebration dates  
District 12 suggested student entries be due to their local school on or before **October 27**. Keep in mind you will need time for preparing the artwork to be judged and time for judges to judge the artwork  
Advancing entries are due to council on Saturday, November 1 (See below for more details)
- Recruit volunteers for promotion, judging, and events
- Recruit creative professionals to judge artwork
- Prepare program tools and materials (rules, forms, instructions)
- Visit the Georgia PTA and National PTA Reflections webpages to learn about categories, divisions, eligibility, deadlines, and advancing entries. *Note: The Georgia PTA Reflections webpage is being updated. For the most current information and materials, check the [Area 2 Gwinnett Council Reflections webpage](#).*

## August-October 2025: Promote Reflections/Call of Entries!

- Distribute rules and entry forms in print and/or digital formats
- Post Reflection documents/forms on your PTA/school website (Tip: Download documents and forms from Area 2 - Gwinnett Council - See Below!)
- Share through TOTEM, email, newsletters, and social media
- If using a digital entry form (Microsoft or Google - both types of forms are linked below)  
*IMPORTANT: You MUST copy and rename the form/document before editing*
- Keep Promoting!  
September 14–20 is Arts in Education Week  
October is National Arts & Humanities Month.

## October 2025: Review & Judging

- Collect and organize entries by category/division
- Verify student eligibility (membership requirement)
- Check that all entries meet category rules
- Provide judging instructions and materials to judges
- November 1: Allow time to upload advancing entries to your Google Drive folder by November 1.
- Reflections Chairs or LU leaders (as listed on the participation form) will receive a school-specific Google folder by email. Please complete the [participation form](#) by August 22 so Council can send folders on time.

## November 2025: Deadlines & Advancing

### By November 1:

- Upload all advancing entries, entry forms, images/files, and Winners Log to your school's Google Drive Folder
- Submit physical Visual Arts and Photography entries to Council (date/time/location TBD)
- 2027-2028 Theme Search Contest - TBA

### By November 26:

- Council judging will be completed
- 1st and 2nd place winners from Council will be sent to GA PTA by the due date, December 5th.

## December 2025 : Council Exhibit & Recognition

- December 5, 2025:** 1st and 2nd place winners from Council are sent on to Georgia PTA
- Invitations to Exhibit sent (date TBD)
- Volunteers needed for exhibit set-up
- Hold Council Reflections Exhibit
- Local Units will pick up any entries not advancing to state (date/time/location TBD)

## Winter/Early Spring (Suggested time): Local Units Celebrate & Wrap-Up

- Recognize all student participants
- Exhibit entries at school or in the community (remove personal info for privacy)
- Thank all volunteers, judges, and partners
- Return all artwork before the end of the school year
- Document notes and tips for next year's Chair

## April-May 2025: Awards & Year-End

- Council Awards Ceremony in April (date TBD)
- National PTA announces the Reflections theme for 2027–2028 in April
- National PTA announces winners May 1
- Register for participation in 2026–2027
- Begin building excitement for Reflections 2026-27

**2026-27 Reflections Theme: *What My Culture Means to Me.***