

UIL A+ Academic Tournaments:

General Guide & What to Expect

To help coordinators, coaches, parents, and students prepare for tournament day, this guide outlines standard rules, expectations, and logistics for all UIL A+ academic meets.

1. Schedule & Arrival

- **Doors Open:** 7:15 AM (*No early entry permitted; main front entrance only*).
- **Security & Entry:** Security screening protocols (metal detection and visual bag inspections) may be in place. Please allow extra time to enter the building.
- **First Event Starts:** 8:30 AM. Students are sent to competition rooms 15 minutes prior to start time (8:15 AM).
- **Arrival Recommendation:** Have students arrive at the host campus **at least 30 minutes before** their first scheduled event.

2. Security & Bag Policy

- **Guests & Parents:** Clear bags only. Non-clear bags are not permitted inside the building, and guests bringing non-clear bags will be asked to return them to their vehicles.
- **Students & Staff:** Exempt from the clear bag policy.
- **Screening:** All attendees are subject to visual bag inspection and/or metal detection. Please inform parents and spectators of these rules before tournament day.

3. Parking Guidelines

- Parking is limited at all host school sites, and the number of vehicles often exceeds available spots.
- Schools and families are strongly encouraged to **carpool or limit the number of individual vehicles** driven to the campus.
- Specific parking maps and details will be shared with coordinators via email before each tournament.

4. What to Wear & Seating Logistics

- **Dress in Layers:** Building temperatures can vary significantly across campuses (due to HVAC variations). Advise students, parents, and coaches to dress in layers to stay comfortable throughout the day.
- **Designated Campus Seating:**
 - **Elementary Schools:** Stationed in the Cafeteria (*Assigned seating per school*).
 - **Middle Schools:** Stationed in the Gym.
- **Cafeteria Seating Availability:** Seating in the cafeteria is limited, especially between events when students and parents congregate. Space opens up periodically as rounds begin and as schools finish competing.
- **Coordinator Check-In:** Upon arrival at the host campus, **only the School Coordinator** needs to go to the Cafeteria Information Table to check in.

5. Room Assignments & The "Info Wall"

- **Preliminary Lists:** A draft list of student room assignments is emailed to coordinators on the Thursday or Friday before the meet.
- **The Info Wall (Final Source of Truth):** On tournament day, refer to the **Information Wall** located in the central hallway/cafeeteria area. The Info Wall lists all events, schedule times, student rosters, and room numbers. If there is any discrepancy between the emailed list and the Info Wall, **the Info Wall is always the final and most accurate posting.**

6. Roster Changes & Substitutions

- **No On-Site Substitutions:** Tournaments are large (often 500+ competitors), and making last-minute substitutions on meet day creates severe delays. Please do not bring extra students with the expectation of subbing them in if someone misses a round.
- **Advance Notice of Drops/Changes:** If you know of any student drops or necessary changes, email the tournament director the day before—even if it is late in the evening.

7. Food & Concessions

- **No Food Sales:** Unless explicitly announced prior to the meet, **no food or drinks will be available for purchase** on-site.
- **Team Snacks:** Coordinators and parents should plan ahead to bring their own team snacks and beverages for the day.

8. Testing Materials & Hallway Policies

- **Student Supplies:** Tournament staff do not provide student supplies. Ensure students bring all necessary supplies (pens, pencils, approved dictionaries, and blank scratch paper for note-taking events).
- **Hallway Policy:** Parents/spectators may escort students to their competition room door, but **must immediately return to the designated seating area (Cafeteria or Gym)**. Standing or waiting in hallways between rounds is strictly prohibited.

9. Speaking Events

- **Modern Oratory Details:**
 - Modern Oratory requires a pre-prepared, **memorized speech** based on official UIL topics provided prior to the contest.
 - Students **may not use notes, index cards, or prompts** during their speech.
- **Oral Reading Details:**
 - Students select their reading selection prior to the contest and **must bring a printed copy** of their selection with them to the tournament.
 - **Categories:** Elementary contests always feature **Poetry**. Middle School alternates yearly between **Poetry** and **Prose**—coordinators must verify that middle school competitors are reading from the correct category for the current school year.
- **Observer Policy (Speaking Events Only):**
 - Maximum of **2 adult observers** per competing student.
 - **No recording** of any kind (audio or video) is permitted, even by parents recording their own children.
 - Observers must sit separately from competitors in the designated spectator area.

- Observers **must remain in the room for the entire round** and cannot leave after their student has spoken.

10. Results & Awards

- Tournament staff and graders remain after the competition concludes to finalize scoring and tabulate results.
- **Posting Results:** Official results are posted on the UIL website on the **Friday following the tournament.**
- **Awards:** Ribbons and medals will be made available for pickup on that Friday or delivered directly to school campuses shortly thereafter.