Division Guidelines
Accessible Arts

ELIGIBILITY. The National PTA Accessible Arts division is an option for students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504 to have the opportunity and accommodations they may need in order to participate fully in the program. The division offers modified rules and guidelines to ensure that every student has the chance to be part of the National PTA Reflections® program.

> **Who qualifies as a disabled individual under the law?** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines an individual with a disability as a person who: (1) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of that person; (2) Has a record of such an impairment; or (3) Is regarded as having such impairment.

HOW TO ENTER. Students who identify as having a disability have two ways to enter the National PTA Reflections® Program. All students may enter in only one division. Student Entry Form requires parent/legal guardian signatures.

> Option 1. Enter in Grade-Level Divisions: Regardless of age, students with disabilities may enter in the grade division most closely aligned to their support needs. Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the grade division in which they compete. The divisions are as follows: Primary (pre-K – grade 2); Intermediate (grades 3-5); Middle School (grades 6-8); High School (grades 9-12). Students may not receive assistance other than that which is allowed in the grade division.
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> Option 2. Enter in Accessible Arts Division: Eligible students entering the division create their own artwork but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the Accessible Arts division.

DIVISION GUIDELINES. Student artists should follow the general rules and arts category guidelines specific to their submissions, modified only by accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The accommodation, in general, should be both specific and limited to the student's disability.

> Allowable Accommodations: Given the diverse range of physical and mental disabilities that exist, it would be impossible to outline specific accommodations for each and every disability, but the following provides a non- exhaustive list of allowable accommodations:

- The division will not be divided by age or traditional school grade level.
- Use of adaptive technology is allowed.
- All submissions must be solely created by the student artist. However, a parent, teacher or other adult may assist the artist with typing, holding a camera, etc.

<u>Accommodations that are Not Allowed:</u> Individuals providing assistance to student artists may not, in any way, involve themselves in the actual artistic process by:

- Personally selecting a title for artwork.
- Writing, editing or interpreting a student's artist statement, story, poetry or script.
- Choreographing a dance, composing music or writing lyrics.
- Drawing, painting or personally creating a visual arts submission, choosing a camera angle, etc.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.