



# Rules and Eligibility for the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National High School Competition (2024–2025)

The We the People National Finals presents a unique opportunity for high school classes. The following policies are designed to guide schools preparing to participate in the National Finals during the 2024–2025 Academic Year.

## Team Eligibility:

- Rostered Classes:
  - All rostered classes, regardless of size, are encouraged to participate in the We the People National Finals.
- After-School Clubs:
  - Clubs are eligible to participate, provided their respective state has not sent a team to the We the People National Finals since 2019.

## Team Composition:

- There are no strict rules regarding team size. The class competition fee remains the same, regardless of the class size, ensuring that all classes, big or small, can participate.
- Each participating class must answer all six unit questions.
- Classes must be divided into six groups, each responsible for testifying on their assigned unit.
- We recommend that each group should have at least three members, with the group sizes as equal as possible.
- Students can participate in more than one unit if the class has fewer than 18 students.

## Team-Selection Process:

- Each state can establish its own criteria for regional and state-level competition participation.
- If a state's winning team meets the National Finals participation requirements, that team can attend the National Finals as the state representative.



## Wild Cards:

- The wild-card system is designed to promote inclusivity and diversity in the competition, providing more schools and students with the chance to participate.
- The We the People National Finals can accommodate 48 teams of students. Each state will be invited to send the winner of its state-level competition. If a state chooses not to send a team to the competition, another state will be invited to send a second team. The second team is designated as the wild-card team.
- The state coordinator, who oversees the We the People program in their state, selects the wild-card team based on their performance at the state-level competition and their potential to effectively represent the state at the national level.
- The wild-card system offers an additional chance for a high-performing team to compete nationally. If two teams are sent from a state, they must come from different schools. This rule ensures that a broader range of schools have the opportunity to participate and showcase their talents at the national level.

## Individual Student Eligibility:

- Participation is open to all high school students, regardless of their prior experience with We the People. Students who participated in elementary or middle school hearings can compete in the high school competition.

## Rosters:

- Teachers/coaches must provide a class roster, including unit assignments, after securing their spot in the National Finals by winning their state-level competition or through a wild card invitation.
- The class roster should specify the unit to which each student is assigned.
- National Finals rosters are due no later than February 25, 2025.
- Teachers have the flexibility to change student unit assignments at each competition level (regional, state, national), providing an opportunity for growth and development, and allowing students to showcase their skills in different areas.

## Team Fee:

- Each team participating in the National Finals must pay a participation fee of \$7,500, regardless of team size. This fee covers all event-related materials, facility rentals, activities, awards, and other logistics for the competition itself, ensuring a high-quality and well-organized event. It also helps to support the We the People program and its mission to promote civic education and engagement.
- The participation fee covers all event-related materials, facility rentals, activities, awards, and other logistics for the competition itself, excluding travel.
- This fee does not include any expenses related to travel to Washington, D.C., which must be arranged and covered separately by each team. Therefore, teams should budget for both the participation fee and additional travel expenses when planning for the competition.



## Team Travel:

- All teams participating in the National Finals must travel with [Grand Classroom](#), our contracted travel vendor for 2025.
- Grand Classroom will work directly with teachers to arrange hotel accommodations, travel to the D.C. area, bus transportation to the competition venue, and to other preferred tourism locations.
- Grand Classroom will consistently support and assist all teams, promptly addressing any travel needs or concerns, ensuring a smooth and stress-free travel experience for all participants.