



## UIL A+ Academics

Fall 2020

This document was created to offer guidance in planning UIL A+ Academics programs for the fall of 2020. Because of the changing nature of the public health situation, guidance around spring participation in UIL A+ Academics is unchanged at this time.

If you have not done so already, visit UIL's ["2020-2021 UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines"](#) to help in your decision making around participation in UIL Academics for the fall of 2020.

Because of the myriad of possibilities in how schools across the state will respond to COVID-19, this document cannot encompass all possible scenarios for how your students could participate in UIL A+ Academics. Below are some recommendations for some of the most common scenarios that might occur based on current information as of the date on this document. Changes to the public health situation may necessitate changes to this guidance.

As always, the structures of UIL districts for A+ Academics competition are determined locally. In setting up an A+ district, schools may follow the High School Academics alignment or may form their own district groups based on their needs and circumstances.

### **What might A+ Academics competition look like for the fall of 2020?**

#### **1) For a fall/winter district meet, students are able to participate in activities on their home campuses but not able to travel to a central site for competition:**

In this scenario, for most A+ events it would be permissible for students from each school participating in the district meet to take the tests at their home campuses. Tests must be administered by contest officials who are knowledgeable and consistent in applying the contest rules for each event. Contests that meet these criteria could be considered official UIL district competitions. The contest official requesting materials for this meet would use fall/winter district materials.

The meet schedule can be flexible, while making sure not to take up more than one school day or two half days to host the events. It would also be possible to host several events after school, which could require multiple days to complete.

#### **2) For a district meet scheduled for the fall, students are enrolled in remote learning and are not able to attend in-person activities on their home campuses or at a central competition site:**

If students are receiving instruction at home, they may still participate in a UIL A+ Academics opportunity. The meet director would request UIL A+ invitational materials for this event, which would be provided for free.

Students may complete the tests virtually in platforms such as Google Classroom, Zoom, or Canvas. Students may also complete paper versions of the tests at home.

The results for these events are unofficial because of the difficulty in monitoring and ensuring a consistent and fair testing environment. However, it is highly encouraged to provide opportunities for participation and recognition. These events will also give students valuable practice to help prepare them for future UIL competition.

**3) For a district meet scheduled for the fall, with students unable to travel to a central site for competition, and with some students physically present on their campus and some enrolled in remote learning:**

When some students can attend in-person events on campus and others choose not to do so, it is permissible to offer students not on campus a participation opportunity. The results for students who do not test at a campus are unofficial because of the difficulty in ensuring a consistent and fair testing environment.

The meet director would request fall/winter materials for students testing at their home campus and also invitational materials for students testing remotely. Students who are provided the remote opportunity must receive invitational materials, not fall/winter district materials. Both sets of materials would be provided for free. It is highly encouraged to offer opportunities for all students, whether in-person or remote, and to recognize their participation.

**Considerations to Keep in Mind**

- If your event is counting as your district meet, your materials will be provided for free. This is always the case for fall/winter district materials, but for the fall of 2020 the invitational set will also be provided for free.
- Students who participate in remote test taking will use invitational materials, and their results are unofficial.
- Students who participate in person at their campus will use fall/winter district materials. Events must be conducted by school personnel with knowledge of the contest rules.
- There are some A+ events that translate more easily than others to remote participation. If your students are participating remotely (and are therefore using A+ invitational materials), consider carefully how events such as Art, Number Sense, and Spelling will be administered if you offer those opportunities. Music Memory is not included with the invitational set of materials – it is permissible to create your own Music Memory tests or to secure them from another source.
- Speaking and performing events pose extra challenges in a remote event format. Any results from remote events would be unofficial, so creativity is encouraged in finding ways to offer participation and recognition opportunities for students. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Adhering to copyright law is essential, so any plans for these types of events would have to take copyright considerations into account.