

Memo

TO: GAD Coach – District-level Championship and Wild Card Teams
FROM: Michelle Crawford, State Director
DATE: January 23, 2026
SUBJECT: State Competition

Congratulations! You are now eligible to participate in the state competition for Georgia Academic Decathlon.

Registering for State Competition

All the forms necessary for registering your team for the state competition of Georgia Academic Decathlon can be downloaded or submitted from the GAD website (www.pageinc.org/gad). Once on the GAD home page, select “State Competition” from the bottom navigation menu or linked in the first paragraph on the page. After you have downloaded the forms, please review each carefully. Your Team Registration and Team Roster Spreadsheet must be submitted ASAP but **no later than January 28** so that preparations for the online portion of the state competition can be completed.

The remaining forms and the **deadline for registering your team for state competition is FEBRUARY 2, 2026**. It is imperative that we receive your registration materials by this date. **Be sure to include forms for alternates if they will be participating online or in person.** You will receive a confirmation of your team’s registration once we receive your team’s completed registration packet. You’ll find a helpful checklist on the last page of this document.

IMPORTANT: USAD has raised the National Competition registration fees to \$350 (online) and \$700 (in person) to participate in National Competition. So that we may assist Georgia's National representatives, we require a \$100 per team State Competition registration fee. As soon as our National representatives are identified, PAGE GAD will pay each team’s National Competition Registration fee from the State Competition fees collected. You will receive an invoice for that fee.

T-Shirts

Up to 15 t-shirts per team can be pre-ordered at no cost to you!!!. (additional shirts will be billed at \$10 each) You must place your order online by ??? SOON – no extras will be ordered. Shirts will be distributed at State Competition. (As soon as I know the deadline I’ll get the link active on the website.)

Hotel Reservations – There is not a block reserved at a specific hotel this year. Competition is at Kennesaw State University, and the Saturday evening banquet will be held at the Embassy Suites Kennesaw. There are many hotels in the area for you to choose from. We would encourage you to NOT stay at the Embassy Suites for several reasons including: 1) small parking lot, 2) all suites with a very limited number of doubles, 3) an evening alcohol reception in the lobby.

We will not use alternates as Student Volunteers this year.

Team Identification Number

Your team’s identification number will be placed on the GAD section of the website after February 2. A very important reason for getting your team’s registration information in on time is that we will need to know what districts will be participating in the state competition as well as the enrollment of each of the participating schools. **Please be sure to include your school’s enrollment in the space provided on the Team Registration Form.** Be respectful to all participating teams by meeting the registration deadline and making sure that the line requesting the enrollment of your school is filled in. You will have a different Team ID number than the one you had in Rounds 1 or 2.

Competition Schedule

Music and Essay will take place online on Feb. 9-10 (practice session on Feb 5-6), at your own school. The remaining tests, speech, interview, and Super Quiz will be conducted in-person at Kennesaw State University, and the banquet will be held at Embassy Suites Kennesaw on Feb 27-28. **The updated 2026 State Competition schedule is already posted on the State Competition section of the website.**

Coaches Briefing – We will hold the Coaches Briefing on Wednesday, Feb 25 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. It is very important that ALL coaches make plans to join the briefing. We will be going over important information you need before coming to State.

Reminder for Speech and Interview Competitions

In order to facilitate speech competition, we require that each decathlete provide a written copy of his/her speech upon check-in on Friday, Feb 27. All medaling speeches will be checked for originality.

Students should prepare a one-page resumé to be used during the Interview event at State Competition. Samples can be found in the Coaches Manual on the website. Please print 3 copies of the resumé. You will not be able to print them on site. If a student does not have a resumé prepared, the interview will be conducted as scheduled but the student may be at a slight disadvantage. We recommend you not rely on printing these at the hotel – **PRINT THEM BEFORE YOU TRAVEL TO STATE.** You do not turn these in – the students take them to their Interview.

Please be sure to print the pages regarding dress code, student code of conduct, academic honesty, and plagiarism, and familiarize yourself and your team with these guidelines. The students must sign a statement indicating that they've read and will adhere to them. They will also be in the Handbook that you will receive electronically and at check-in on Friday.

Music and Essay

The Music and Essay events take place online a couple of weeks prior to State competition. The mandatory practice log-in for the online essay event is scheduled for February 5-6. The Actual Testing is scheduled for February 9-10. We suggest you attempt to use the first date in case you encounter any problems. More instructions including usernames and passwords will be sent to you via email on or around February 1. You will need a proctor for the online tests. Every student must take the same test at the same time. You may choose what time within the daily window of 8a – 8p. Any student who is flagged on the Loss of Direct Focus report runs the risk of disqualification. An LDF report will be sent after your practice so you can share and identify any possible issues with your students. Be sure the students know to self-report ANY instance that could be flagged to your proctor. Make sure your proctor knows to log the student's name, type of possible flag, timestamp and approx. length of issue.

Testing at State

Art, Math, Literature, Economics, Science, and Social Science tests will be completed online, just like they were in Rounds 1 and 2, but on site at Kennesaw State University on Friday, February 27. Alternates will not participate in Testing in-person. Every participating student must bring their own device (and power cord) in order to complete testing. Be sure www.usadtest.com is whitelisted on all your students' devices before coming to State. We will have a limited number of tablets for students to use in case of device issues.

NOTE: the State Math test has been written so that calculators are not needed. No calculators will be permitted. We are mirroring this year's USAD Nationals policy.

Competition Odds and Ends

The in-person portion of State Competition will again be at Kennesaw State University. There is very specific information about car parking, bus drop-off and parking, and entrance to the registration and competition area. It is posted online and will be covered in this year's Coaches Briefing. If your bus driver has any questions after seeing the maps and instructions, please ask them to call the State Director.

The Super Quiz will conclude our in-person portion of State Competition on Saturday afternoon, February 28. It will continue to be a collaborative event that will not count toward overall team scores. It will be a stand-alone competition with trophies presented for 1st through 3rd places. Only team awards will be given for Super Quiz; no individual medals will be given. The first round will consist of 13 questions for Varsity students. The second round will be for Scholastic

students, and we will finish with 13 questions for the Honor students. Alternates will be allowed to participate in Super Quiz. Calculators will not be needed.

NOTE: As with the Math test, calculators will not be needed for the SQ Math questions.

As we have in the past, we will continue to provide dinner on Friday evening and Lunch on Saturday afternoon for all decathletes, alternates, coaches, and chaperones. Since we are being hosted at Kennesaw State University, we will have those meals in the Commons cafeteria. They have many different types of food including accommodating those with special dietary restrictions!

State Winners and National Representatives - Academic Decathlon divisions are Score Based

State competition will still have Division I and Division II championship teams. Division I will consist of the highest scoring teams from Round 2 and Division II the lower scores. The championship team (either Division I or Division II) with the highest team score will represent Georgia at the national finals in Garden Grove CA April 23-25.

Georgia will also tap three additional teams to participate at in-person Nationals. All four of Georgia's representatives to in-person nationals will be placed in a division based on State scores. We will continue to have representatives competing in the Small, Medium, and Large School National Online competitions based on enrollment. The Online competitions happen in conjunction with the in-person Nationals. Those schedules will be shared as soon as our representatives are identified.

NEW THIS YEAR – We have the option to send individual students to in-person Nationals. Only students who were on non-qualified National teams will be invited to attend the in-person Individual National Competition. We should know by the end of this year's State Competition how many individuals will receive an invitation. Those invitations will be based on scores and category placement.

Awards Banquet

This is the celebration event where students receive medals for outstanding performance in each of the 10 events and teams receive trophies for their Super Quiz standings, and overall in their divisions. Please note: Complimentary banquet tickets are provided for a maximum of 9 team members and 2 coaches (11 tickets). Teams will be charged for complimentary tickets that are requested but not used. You will be able to purchase banquet tickets for any alternates who travel with your team to the state competition. You may purchase additional guest tickets this year, but we will have a limit on how many people can attend the banquet because of the size of the ballroom at the Embassy Suites. If more tickets are ordered than the maximum number of people that will fit in the space, we will talk individually with those who ordered additional guest tickets.

No refunds are given for unused tickets. ALL tickets must be ordered by February ???. As soon as I have our deadline date and ticket price, I will add the banquet form to the website.

The main entree at the banquet will be chicken, starch and vegetable and will be prepared nut, gluten, and dairy free. There will be a vegetarian/vegan entrée option as well. If you have OTHER dietary restrictions that aren't encompassed by this menu, please let us know by returning the Special Needs form ASAP. Nothing in the main entrees will include nuts, pork, seafood, gluten, or dairy. The bread, salad, and desert may contain these or other allergens.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 404-414-3041, or via email at mcrawford@pageinc.org. We look forward to your participation in the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon State Competition.

State Competition Paperwork Checklist

All of the below documents are available on the State Competition page of the website (referenced above). Download, complete and email OR submit forms as required.

Due by January 28:

- ☐ Team Registration Form – online form (you will need to know your school's enrollment to complete this form)
- ☐ Team Roster Spreadsheet – Excel document with 2 tabs – save to your computer and complete both tabs. **Please do not just email the spreadsheet you used in Round 1 or 2. This spreadsheet has some additional fields that need to be completed.** Email to mcrawford@pageinc.org

Due by February 2 (or date on form):

- ☐ State Coaches Agreement – online form
- ☐ USAD GPA Transcript Evaluation Worksheet – do not use an old form. On the website you will find 2 links to this worksheet. The first link takes you to a GPA training section of the USAD website. One of the links listed in the training section is the ACTUAL Worksheet – the second link on the GAD website takes you directly to the worksheet. REMEMBER – if a student failed a class you still list the ATTEMPTED credit hours on the worksheet. – Email the ACTUAL SPREADSHEET, not a copy of the pages. (If you used the updated USAD spreadsheet earlier this school year, you don't have to download it and redo it.)
- ☐ OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS/REPORT CARDS MUST ACCOMPANY THE WORKSHEETS
REMEMBER: the past 2 year's worth of acceptable grades make up each student's USAD GPA. Freshman need ONLY their 8th grade report card – but we need the actual grades, not what's reported on the high school transcript. (These rules will change for next year!)
- ☐ Student Registration/Parent Permission Form – this must be completed and returned for each participating student, even alternates who participate in any portion of State Competition.
- ☐ Request for Special Needs/Consideration – please complete and return this form if you have a student who receives accommodations, has allergies (other than the dietary ones already addressed above), or requires special consideration. We will need a copy of the student's IEP to allow any official accommodations to be made.
- ☐ Banquet Ticket order form (coming soon)
- ☐ T-Shirt order form – deadline Feb ?? - online form coming soon (you may order up to 15 at no charge, you will be invoiced for additional shirts at \$10 each - no extras will be ordered)