



Welcome to the

2026 MHSAA Congressional Debate State Championship

To all our MHSAA Schools, Participants, and Coaches:

The Mississippi High School Activities Association welcomes everyone to the MHSAA State Congress Competition for the 2025-2026 school year!

Our speech and debate competition continues to be one of the top events on the MHSAA calendar, a calendar which includes more than 20 separate state championships in activities and sports. The opportunity for our students in Mississippi to participate in this contest helps enhance the educational experience for all involved. MHSAA is proud to host this event at Millsaps College on April 17-18, and we will do our part to ensure this event is safe as well as a success.

Congratulations to all speech and debate students and coaches participating in this prestigious event. Congressional Debate is a pillar in the Speech and Debate community, and the hard work our students put into it has been showcased both in and out of state.

I would also like to thank my MHSAA Speech & Debate Committee for the help and support given to our activity this past year and to the community at large for the constant dedication and support that goes into every event.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rachel Clapper-Davis

MHSAA Coordinator of Speech and Debate

2026 MHSAA State Congress Schedule

Monday - April 13, 2022

8:00 pm Registration Deadline

Tuesday - April 14 2022

8:00 pm Judge Registration Deadline

Friday - April 17 2022

4-4:30 pm Judge and School Check-In

4:45 pm Congress Assembly and Oath

5:00 pm. **Congress Session One Begins**

8:00 pm. Session One Ends

Saturday - April 18, 2022

9:00 am. **Congress Session Two Begins**

12:00 pm Congress Session Two Ends

1:00 pm **Congress Finals Session Begins**

4:00 pm Congress Finals End

Awards for Congress will be held at the MHSAA Speech and Debate State Championship on April 25 at Millsaps.

SWEEPSTAKES SCORES AND PLACEMENTS

State Championship Team

The top three (3) teams at the MHSAA State Championship Tournament, as well as the top three (3) teams in Debate Events and the top three (3) teams in Speech Events, will be determined by the sweepstakes formula outlined below. The team accumulating the most points from their top 25 entries will be declared the **MHSAA Speech and Debate State Champion Team**. This rule is only for the state championship.

State Championship Individual Performer

The sweepstakes formula outlined below will determine the top six (6) Individual Performers. Competitors will receive points in their best four (4) events. No student may count all five events if they are also entered in MHSAA State Congress. The individual student performer accumulating the most points will be declared the **MHSAA Top Individual Performer State Champion**.

Sweepstakes Formula

Platform Events

- First Place Finalist _____ 5 points
- Second Place Finalist _____ 4 points
- Third Place Finalist _____ 3 points
- Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Place Finalists _____ 2 points
- Non-Advancing Semifinalists _____ 1 point

Debate Events

- First Place Finalist _____ 8 points
- Second Place Finalist _____ 6 points
- Non-Advancing Semifinalists _____ 4 points
- Non-Advancing Quarterfinalists _____ 3 points

Congressional Debate

- First Place Finalist _____ 8 points
- Second Place Finalist _____ 6 points
- 3rd and 4th Place Finalists _____ 4 points
- 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Finalists _____ 3 points
- Non-Placing Finalists _____ 1 point

Ties

Counting the number of First Places each team has earned will break ties; a tie will be broken in favor of the team with the greater number of First Places. If the teams have an equal number of First Places, then the number of Second Places will be counted and used as a tiebreaker. Placings through Sixth Place will be used in turn as tiebreakers. If the teams remain tied after counting all of the First Place through Sixth Place finishes that each team has earned, the tie shall be declared unbreakable, and two trophies will be awarded.

MHSAA State Championship Fees

Please note the change in price for the MHSAA Speech and Debate State Championship:

- \$13 for all single-student entries
- \$15 for all student team entries (PF, CX, Duo, Duet)
- \$25 fee per school
- \$50 fee for each uncovered judge entry