



UIL PILOT CONTEST: CONGRESS

Structure of the Contest

2013 - 2014

PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST: The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to understand real-world social and political policies debated within the framework of a legislative body modeled after the United States Congress, with formal discourse guided by parliamentary procedure.

NATURE OF THE CONTEST: Students will formulate legislative bills and resolutions on real-life social and political issues, debate them, and adopt or reject them by casting votes. Speaking in legislative congress is conducted within a structured environment of specific procedural rules.

STRUCTURE: Congressional Districts will be organized into districts according to the twenty Educational Region Center regions (ESC) designated by the Texas Education Agency. All schools, regardless of UIL conference, will compete with each other within their school's Region ESC unless conference entry numbers warrant separate chambers. Regardless, each conference competing in the Congressional District will be eligible to advance three representatives to the State Congressional competition.

ENTRIES: Each League member school in all conferences may enter three legislators and two alternates in the Congressional District pilot contest. Entries shall be submitted at least ten calendar days prior to the Congressional District competition. In a Congressional District where 10 or less total contestants per conference are competing, both alternates from each school with a full entry in that conference may be seated. Only one alternate may be seated if there are 11 – 15 entries within the conference.

ELIGIBILITY: Each contestant shall be eligible under Subchapter M. Only students in high school are eligible for this contest. Speech Plan, section 1000 of the *UIL Contest & Contest Rules* for specific speech eligibility, shall not apply to this contest.

SUBSTITUTIONS: An eligible student may be substituted for any name on the official district entry form by providing the contest director with a letter or official substitution form signed by the superintendent or designated administrator certifying the student's eligibility. The letter shall be presented to the contest director before the contest begins.

LIMIT ON SUBSTITUTIONS: After a given competition has begun, no substitutions shall be allowed.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONTEST DIRECTORSHIP: A directorship of five for each Congressional District contest within their Education Service Center region will conduct the District contest. A Congressional District Clerk appointed by the UIL State Office will chair the directorship. The Congressional District Clerk shall be the final authority until the Congressional District competition is completed.

COMPETITION: Every school shall be allowed to enter three (3) competitors for Congressional District competition. If the total number is:

- 24 or less entries there shall be one chamber, which will conduct a morning and afternoon session, the total debate time to be not less than six hours, nor more than eight, equally divided between the morning and the afternoon sessions. The top three ranked congressional contestants from each conference in Congressional District following the second session shall advance to State.
- 25 to 48 entries there shall be two chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting of not less than three nor more than four hours and advance the top half (or whole number closest to that percentage) in each chamber to a final congress session. The final session shall not be less than three, nor more than four hours. The top three congressional contestants from each conference in the Congressional District final session shall advance to State.
- 49 to 72 entries there shall be three chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting of not less than three nor more than four hours and advance the top one-third (or whole number closest to that percentage) in each chamber to a final congress session. The final session shall not be less than three, nor more than four hours. The top three congressional contestants in each conference in the Congressional District final session shall advance to State.
- 73 and greater numbers shall be four chambers, which will conduct a preliminary session consisting of not less than three nor more than four hours and advance the top one-fourth (or whole number closest to that percentage) in each chamber to a final session of congressional debate. The final session shall not be less than three, nor more than four hours. The top three congressional debaters in each conference in the Congressional District final session shall advance to State.

In the second through fourth schematic designations above, those advancing from preliminary to final chambers must be proportionate to the conferences represented. In this inaugural year, regardless of fractional advancement, if only one school represents a conference, then three of the school's members will advance to the final chamber and to State.

Example:

Assume there is the following composition in a chamber of 26 students.

CONFERENCE	# STUDENTS	% OF CHAMBER
5A	8	31
4A	5	19
3A	7	27
2A	3	12
1A	3	12

According to the schematic designations above, 25 – 48 in the chamber means the top half advance to finals. (13 competitors = top half of chamber with 26 in it)

Mathematically, the breakdown of conference advancements would be:

$13 \times .31$ (% of 5A competitors) = 4 advance

$13 \times .19$ (% of 4A competitors) = 2 advance

$13 \times .27$ (% of 3A competitors) = 4 advance

$13 \times .12$ (% of 2A competitors) = 2 advance

$13 \times .12$ (% of 1A competitors) = 2 advance

Total number of students advancing from that preliminary chamber to the final chamber would be 14.

In each Congressional District, the maximum number of competitors from the final chamber that may advance to State is three representatives from each conference. A first and second alternate should be named from each conference, whenever possible.

DISTRICT SCORING: Each chamber shall be scored by a parliamentarian and two judges (or a parliamentarian and any even-number of judges, as the judging pool allows) during both the preliminary and final rounds, or in both sessions if the district has 24 or less competitors entered.

Legislators may have five scored speeches per session. They may deliver more than five speeches, but only the initial five shall be scored. The parliamentarian and judges shall rate each speech 1- 6, with 1 being worst and 6 being the best. Ratings should be based on originality of thought, organization and unity, evidence and logic, and overall delivery. A ballot should be completed for all members of Congress whether they spoke during the session or not.

For the session they are scoring, the cumulative score of the parliamentarian and judges in any chamber shall determine ranking. The lowest accumulated score of the judges and the parliamentarian shall be first in the chamber, the second lowest shall be second in the chamber, etc. The parliamentarian's vote shall break all ties. The Congressional District Directorship shall conduct the tabulation.

PLANNING THE DISTRICT MEET: In order to maximize participation by all schools and provide equal opportunity to all students to enter regardless of the existing Academic Conflict Pattern, the first year of the Congressional pilot competition will be held during the fall semester.

The Congressional District Directorship, with input from all participating schools, shall schedule Congressional District competition during the two designated district weeks beginning on November 1 and ending on November 16. Location and entry fees will be determined by the directorship.

DISTRICT LEGISLATION: In the first year of the pilot contest, legislation will be provided by the UIL State Office and ranked by the State Advisory Committee.

In subsequent years, contestants will submit original legislation. For District competition, each school entered shall submit a minimum of one resolution and one bill to the Congressional District Clerk by the date determined by the Congressional District Directorship. However, the Directorship shall provide a call for needed legislation 21 days advanced notice to each participating school. For the purposes of this regulation, an email to the school's UIL Congressional contact person of record will be considered official notification.

The Congressional District Clerk will post the legislation for the Congressional District school vote no later than 10 days following the last day of submission. Within seven days after posting the legislation for vote, the Congressional District clerk shall cumulate the results and report them to the schools within the Congressional District.

Regardless of the exact dates selected for the original notification, acceptance of legislation, voting, tallying and reporting results, the Congressional District shall accomplish the entire process no later than April 15. If there is, in the Congressional District Clerk's opinion, insufficient legislation offered for the competition, he/she will contact the State Clerk for additional legislation, which may not be heard until all original legislation submitted by the Congressional District's schools are first considered.

Except for Congressional Districts with less than 24 entries, the half of the legislation receiving the highest cumulative ranks shall be heard in the preliminary session and legislation receiving the lowest cumulative ranks shall be heard in the final session.

LEGISLATION IN GENERAL: The selection of legislation for Congressional District or State competition shall include a minimum of three bills/resolutions that are Texas-based or have a direct impact on Texas. For the purpose of good debate, when debating federal legislation, it should be assumed members in the chamber will be US Congress representatives. When debating state legislation, it should be assumed members in the chamber will be Texas state representatives.

JUDGES/PARLIAMENTARIANS: The Congressional District Directorship will determine requirements for providing judges and parliamentarians for the district competition.

CONGRESSIONAL STATE

The 2013-2014 Congressional State contest will be held January 7-8, 2014 in Austin hosted by the University Interscholastic League.

The maximum number of competitors from each conference that can advance to State Meet is 60, where they can be divided into three chambers of 20.

- Conferences that have fewer than 24 state-qualifying competitors shall have a single chamber, which will meet in 4 separate sessions divided equally over two days. The parliamentarian shall remain the same; however, the judges will only remain with the chamber for a single session.
- If there are 25-48 state-qualifying competitors in the conference, the competitors shall be divided into two chambers. Following a morning and afternoon session, it shall be determined (see scoring below) the top half of each chamber will advance to the final congress. If there are an odd number of legislators in a chamber, it shall be the greater number of half advanced.
- If there are 49-60 state-qualifying competitors in the conference, the competitors shall be divided into three chambers. Following a morning and afternoon session, it shall be determined (see scoring below) the top third (or whole number closest to that percentage) of each chamber shall advance to the final congress.

STATE LEGISLATION: At the completion of Congressional District competition, those students for each conference advancing to State competition shall select one resolution or one bill to be submitted to the State Clerk for the State Meet. *Note: In the 2013-2014 competition, this requirement will not apply. The State Advisory Committee will select 30 pieces of legislation for debate at State. State legislation will be posted online the week following the completion of all Congressional District meets.*

STATE JUDGES/PARLIAMENTARIANS: Each Congressional District (ESC) advancing competitors to State shall provide one qualified parliamentarian for the duration of State competition. Each school qualifying a legislator shall provide one judge for the duration of the Congressional State competition. Deadline for submission of state judge/parliamentarian information is December 1.

STATE SCORING: During preliminary and final sessions, parliamentarians will remain the same in each chamber, but the judges will be rotated from that chamber after each session. Thus, there should be four judges and one parliamentarian who have scored the chamber during State preliminary sessions. The parliamentarian's vote shall break all ties in the preliminary rounds.

RANKING: At the end of each session, each judge shall rank the top competitors 1- 7 (7th being lowest). Judges shall rank all other competitors 8th. Only at State and when there are 24 or fewer competitors at District does the parliamentarian wait until the completion of all preliminary sessions before ranking each and all members 1st – the number of members in the chamber.

For State competition, ties shall be broken by: a) total ranks, b) judge preference, c) judge preference total dropping high and low, d) judge preference total dropping two high and low, e) parliamentarian's preference. UIL State Officials shall conduct the tabulation.

RECORDING: Schools and/or individuals are prohibited from recording (audio and/or video) district or state Congress sessions. The UIL reserves the right to record for educational purposes.