

4th Congressional District 2026 Art Competition Rules

General Guidelines to supplement Congressional Institute Rules

- The competition is open only to high school students who reside in New Jersey's Fourth Congressional District. [Towns in the Fourth District](#).
- One entry per student. No joint collaborations done by multiple students. All work must be original by the student. To be eligible for Best-in-Show, **artwork derived from a photograph MUST be done from a photograph taken by the student artist** (use of old family photos, commercial art or photos, or photos taken by any second party regardless of permission to use, *can* be exhibited in the show, but would NOT be eligible for the top place). Artwork may be no larger than 26 inches by 26 inches and 4 inches deep, including frame. Please indicate the dimensions of art (example: 12 inches by 22 inches), and weigh no more than 15 pounds
- All work submitted must include a TYPED copy of the [2026 Student Release form](#), signed by both the teacher or parent as well as the student, and must be emailed along with the photo of artwork.
- Please **provide a clear, high resolution digital photograph** (jpeg file) of each piece of artwork submitted which can be used for public display in the 2026 Virtual Art Gallery and for press release purposes for the winners. The title of the electronic file should reflect student's name and work title.
- The winning Best-in-Show entry will hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol for the entire year of the national exhibition and cannot be returned to students earlier. Students, therefore, should submit artwork they will not need for other purposes, or make reproductions for those purposes.
- Entries must follow general suitability rules, including no political controversy, gruesomeness, nudity or sensationalism, as presented by the Congressional Institute in its [2026 Rules and Regulations for Students and Teachers](#). Additionally, they must adhere to these NJ-04 competition guidelines.

Students from Same School

- One piece of artwork is allowed per student. There is no limit to the number of entries from a school.
- Each school is asked to provide a typed list of all submitted artwork. The [teachers list of students form](#) needs to include: 1) each student's name, 2) grade, 3) title of the piece, and 4) medium/media. This list will be used to prepare the certificates to be issued at the close of the competition.
- As a friendly reminder regarding suitability, our office reserves the right not to accept or display any work found to be gruesome or offensive. Please know artwork will be displayed in the halls of Community Medical Center with hundreds of patients and visitors of all ages walking through the exhibition every day.

Framing Guidelines

- All entries are required to be framed. **All artwork must be framed, wired and ready to be hung when dropped off at Community Medical Center between noon and 6 pm on Thursday, April 2nd, 2026.** All wires must be already attached to eye hooks, approximately one-fourth from the top of the frame. NO CLIPS, HOOKS or other hanging mechanisms. **A copy of the Student Release form must be attached to the back and include the Title of Entry, Medium, Description and Framed Dimension.** Frames can be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Artists are responsible for framing art.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate which side is "up" with an arrow.

Timeline & Deadlines

- **A student, parent or teacher must give notification of intent to submit art, including a high school's list of all artwork being submitted by its students, to the Congressional Office by close of business on Thursday, March 27th 2026.** Notifications should include student's name, school, title of artwork, phone no., email, price if for sale and emailed to NJartcomp@mail.house.gov.

We will give advance notification to the teachers or parents of the winning entries. Contact Kate Hoh or Jeff Sagnip for more information. They may be reached by telephone at (732) 504-0567.