

SCIENCE of READING

K–8 Drawing Contest Rules & Directions

Theme:

“The Science of Reading: How We Learn to Read”

Students should create artwork that celebrates reading, learning to read, or the importance of literacy.

Who Can Enter:

All South Dakota students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

Artwork Requirements:

1. Paper Size
 - o Artwork must be created on SD DOE Provided Template.
2. Original Work
 - o Drawings must be created by the student.
 - o No tracing, copying, or use of digital tools.
3. Theme Connection
 - o The drawing should reflect reading, learning to read, the Science of Reading, or literacy growth.
 - o Examples include letters and sounds, books, reading strategies, joyful reading, classrooms, or brain-based learning concepts in a kid-friendly way.
4. Optional Slogan
 - o Students may include a short reading-focused slogan.
 - o Slogans must be school-appropriate.
 - o Examples:
 - “Read to Grow!”
 - “Sound It Out, Figure It Out!”
 - “Readers Build Their Brains!”
 - “Reading Powers Our Future!”



K–8 Drawing Contest Rules & Directions

Submission Requirements::

- Each entry must have the information completed on the provided template (name, grade, district, school, teacher).
- One entry per student.
- Entries must be submitted by May 8, 2026 to South Dakota Department of Education, Attn: Ashley Holm, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre SD, 57501; or email to Ashley.Holm@state.sd.us

Judging Criteria:

Artwork will be judged on:

1. Creativity and Originality
2. Connection to the Science of Reading/Literacy theme
3. Neatness and clarity
4. Expression of reading enthusiasm

Awards & Recognition:

The top five designs from each grade band (K–2, 3–5, and 6–8) will be selected by the South Dakota Department of Education (SD DOE) and featured on the official SD DOE Facebook page.

Community members will be invited to vote for their favorite designs, helping to choose the top two winners in each grade band.

The winning artwork will be:

- Featured on official SD DOE State Fair educational materials
- Proudly displayed at the SD DOE booth during the 2026 South Dakota State Fair

Important Notes:

- Entries will not be returned.
- By submitting, students and families grant permission for the artwork to be displayed or shared for educational purposes by the SD DOE.

Student Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

District Name: _____ School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

South Dakota Department of Education Drawing Contest

K–8 Drawing Contest Rules & Directions
Theme: “The Science of Reading: How We Learn to Read”
Students should create artwork that celebrates reading, learning to read, or the importance of literacy.

I give permission for the South Dakota Department of Education (SD DOE) to: 1) display my child’s artwork in print and digital formats, 2) use only their first name and last initial (e.g., Jordan D.) for identification, and 3) keep the artwork for future educational or promotional use. No other personal information will be shared. This release is granted without compensation.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____