

KPA
BRADLEY
AWARDS

PRODUCED BY  **KENTUCKY
PERFORMING
ARTS**

**2025-2026 KPA BRADLEY AWARDS
SCHOOL PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK**

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ABOUT THE KPA BRADLEY AWARDS

The KPA Bradley Awards are an official Regional Awards Program of The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®), otherwise known as The Jimmy Awards®. With a goal of celebrating young artists and elevating the importance of theatre arts education, The KPA Bradley Awards partners with high schools across Kentucky and Southern Indiana to adjudicate a musical production at each participating school, culminating in an awards ceremony (modeled after the Tony Awards®) in Louisville, KY where awards in various categories are provided to winning students, educators, and ensembles. Two students are selected at the awards ceremony to represent the region at The Jimmy Awards® in New York City, which includes a week of private coaching, master classes, and rehearsals with theatre professionals prior to participation in the national awards ceremony in a Broadway theater.

The KPA Bradley Awards are named in honor of Bradley Broecker, whose central role in bringing touring Broadway shows to Kentuckiana has made immeasurable impact on the region's vibrancy. The KPA Bradley Awards are presented by KPA in partnership with the Louisville Theatrical Association.

For more information, visit bit.ly/KPABradleyAwards.

VALUES AND BELONGING

The KPA Bradley Awards believes every young artist has value and potential, and every participating student and educator should contribute to an environment that is empowering, educational, exciting, and welcoming to all. While there is a competitive element to any awards ceremony, all participants should be treated with dignity and respect, and in turn should treat others with dignity and respect. The KPA Bradley Awards seeks to build community amongst our region's high school theatre programs, all of which are worthy of celebration for the value they bring to our youth and our communities.

ABOUT KENTUCKY PERFORMING ARTS (KPA)

The KPA Bradley Awards is a program of Kentucky Performing Arts (KPA). With a mission to connect and inspire through the arts, and with a vision that the arts awaken the shared humanity, empathy, and limitless creativity in everyone, KPA has made tremendous impact on our region's cultural vitality since its founding in 1983.

In addition to presenting performances in its three venues (The Kentucky Center, The Brown Theatre, and Old Forester's Paristown Hall), KPA is committed to arts education and community impact through not only through The KPA Bradley Awards, but also the Governor's School for the Arts and ArtsReach.

As an integral member of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts, & Heritage Cabinet, Kentucky Performing Arts has a significant impact on the Commonwealth's tourism and local economy, contributing \$26.3 million in an average year, including \$15.8 million in direct economic impact with our patrons spending an additional \$10.5 million annually.



Participant Eligibility

Public and private high schools which produce and perform full-length musicals in all Kentucky counties and the Indiana counties of Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Scott, and Washington are eligible to participate in The KPA Bradley Awards. Students cannot directly apply to participate; they participate through taking part in their school's musical production. Private studios, community theaters, etc. that do not serve as a high school are not eligible to participate.

Additional eligibility criteria include:

- Production dates: High school productions must take place between Thursday, October 30, 2025, and Sunday, April 26, 2026. There must be more than one performance of the production. **NOTE: If your production opens before October 30, 2025 or closes after April 26, 2026, but there are at least two or more performances occurring within the October 30 – April 26 timeframe, you are still eligible to apply to participate.**
- Schools must produce a full-length musical that fits the NHSMTA®'s definition of an "Approved Musical." Carefully review the content of [this page](#) for more information about Approved Musicals, including the hyperlinks listed at the bottom of that page.
- Schools participating in The KPA Bradley Awards may not participate in another NHSMTA® Regional Awards Program.

Application & Participation Fees

For a school to be considered for participation in the 2025–2026 KPA Bradley Awards, a designated school representative must complete the application [linked here](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, September 15, 2025. The school representative completing the form can be an educator, administrator, or other school employee; however, only one application can be submitted for each school, and the application may not be completed by a student or parent.

Schools will be notified of their application status and whether they are invited to participate in the 2025–2026 KPA Bradley Awards by Friday, September 26, 2025.

There is not a set minimum or maximum number of schools that will be selected to participate at this time, although it is possible more schools will apply than we have capacity to accept. If required to narrow down the applicant pool to a smaller number of schools invited to participate, The KPA Bradley Awards will value selecting a cohort of schools that represent a diversity of students and communities throughout The KPA Bradley Awards' service region;; we will also consider logistical feasibility of adjudication (for instance, if a large number of schools that apply are presenting their musicals on the same weekend, we may not be able to provide enough adjudicators to support participation of all schools).

Once a school is accepted into the program, a \$150 participation fee is required. Participating schools will need to provide a copy of their school's W9 and contact information for the person who manages invoices at their school to KPA by Thursday, October 30, 2025. Once we have received that information, the KPA finance department will then send invoices to all participating schools, with payment due back to KPA no later than Friday, December 12, 2025. Prior to their production's opening night, each school's primary contact for The KPA Bradley Awards is also required to attend one of the following virtual orientations via Zoom:

- Tuesday, October 7, 2025
- Thursday, October 9, 2025
- Tuesday, January 6, 2026
- Thursday, January 8, 2026

In addition to the participation fee and regardless of nominations, each school must purchase a minimum of 25 tickets to The KPA Bradley Awards' final ceremony at the student ticket price of \$15/ticket plus fees (the total student ticket price including fees for last year's ceremony was \$17.55). Following the nominations announcement in early May 2026, participating schools will have a one-week ticketing presale to complete their ticket purchase prior to the public on sale.

Two complimentary tickets will be available for the educator/director who organized their school's involvement with The KPA Bradley Awards. Additionally, all students and casts that are final nominees will also receive a complimentary ticket. More information about claiming complimentary tickets will be shared with educators during orientation. Please see additional information about the awards ceremony on the following pages.



ADJUDICATION

KPA secures a team of performing arts professionals to serve as adjudicators for The KPA Bradley Awards. This group is required to attend a training session, as well as commit to being impartial and objective to each production.

The purpose of the adjudication process is to provide each school with educational feedback that celebrates the notable achievements of each production while offering constructive feedback on aspects where productions/performers could improve. Each production is evaluated independently on how it is meeting or exceeding its potential, as opposed to being adjudicated in comparison to other school productions. Schools are required to provide The KPA Bradley Awards with a significant amount of information about each production's resources (budget size, number of professionals involved in show development, etc.) to provide adjudicators with a comprehensive understanding of each performance in the context of the school's unique circumstance and environment.

Adjudicators provide written feedback on performances by students in lead, supporting, and ensemble roles, as well as execution of choreography, execution of technical theatre elements, and the overall production quality. Feedback is designed to function as an educational tool, not strictly a review or critique. KPA emails adjudicator feedback to the primary contact within three weeks of their production's closing night.

Using scoring rubrics, adjudicators also rate performances and various production elements. These scores are used to determine final nominations in each category, as well as the final award winner in most categories (see more information on categories below). Scores are not shared with schools; schools only receive the written feedback and learn whether they have been nominated in any categories. Scoring rubrics may be found on the last page of this document.

Adjudicators do not provide oral critiques following the performance, nor do adjudicators discuss their opinions, evaluations, scores, or feedback with anyone in any format beyond the written feedback mentioned above. Schools are expected to refrain from directly asking adjudicators for feedback or information, and schools should not provide adjudicators with any kind of public recognition at the performance they attend.

While The KPA Bradley Awards' final ceremony celebrates all participating schools and each school is represented by students onstage, it is possible that a participating school might not be nominated for any award categories based on adjudicator scoring/review.

KPA will contact schools to confirm which performances the three adjudicators will attend. Once adjudication dates are confirmed, each school is required to reserve two (2) complimentary tickets for each adjudicator (a total of six). The KPA Bradley Awards Manager will contact the Participating School's Educator to confirm what names the adjudicator tickets should be held under, no later than two weeks prior to that production's opening night.

Please note: The three adjudicators assigned to your production may or may not attend the same performance.

A Note on Double-Casting

To maximize the number of schools served by The KPA Bradley Awards, we are unable to adjudicate more than one cast per school at this time. If a school plans to double cast one or more roles, the school must select one set of cast members to be adjudicated. It will not be possible to adjudicate multiple students for the same role. To ensure all three adjudicators are assigned to performances featuring the same cast, any school planning to double cast their production must confirm this information with The KPA Bradley Awards Manager no later than Friday, October 10, 2025.



THE KPA BRADLEY AWARDS CEREMONY

On Sunday, May 31, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET, The KPA Bradley Awards will present a Tony Awards®-inspired ceremony in Louisville, KY. The event celebrates our region's young artists and the importance of theatre education with a program that includes both award presentations and performances, including onstage representation from all participating schools. The awards ceremony is open to the public, and we ask all participating schools to encourage attendance from members of their local community. Tickets for the ceremony will go on sale after the nominations announcement in early May 2026 at

www.kentuckyperformingarts.org.

The ceremony consists of:

- Recognition of nominees and announcing the winner of each awards category. Each award winner (or a representative of the winner) provides a brief acceptance speech. For the categories of Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role, this also identifies the two students who receive an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City to represent our region in The 2026 Jimmy Awards®.
- Opening and Closing numbers performed by The KPA Bradley Awards Showcase Ensemble which consists of two students from each participating school, as well as nominees for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role. Schools select which two students represent them in these numbers.
- Medley performances by nominees for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role.
- Performances from each high school cast nominated in the category of Best Overall Musical Production. The KPA Bradley Awards staff works with each nominated school to select the ensemble number from their musical that will be performed, as well as additional logistical details for restaging each piece on stage.
- A pre-ceremony red carpet event.

The anticipated rehearsal/ceremony schedule is expected to be as follows; note that participation in rehearsals is **required** for all students/schools performing in the awards ceremony, no exceptions or absences of any kind permitted; all rehearsals will take place in-person in Louisville, KY, and will extend from the morning into the evening:

Friday, May 29, 2026

- All nominees for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role: rehearse performances for awards ceremony; audition panel to inform winner in each category.
- Staging rehearsals for some schools nominated for Best Overall Musical Production

Saturday, May 30, 2026

- Rehearsal for all students participating in opening in closing numbers including the Showcase Ensemble (two students per school, as selected by each school AND all nominees for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role)
- Continued staging rehearsals for remaining nominees in Best Overall Musical Production category.

Sunday, May 31, 2026

- Final Tech and Dress Rehearsal
- 4:00 p.m.: Red Carpet pre-show experience
- 5:00 p.m.: Awards Ceremony (expected to run two and a half hours) Rehearsal materials (scores, videos of vocal parts and choreography, etc.) will be sent to students performing in the awards ceremony in advance. While additional guidance on attire will be provided, production costumes will not be required (schools do not have to extend costume rentals until the date of the awards ceremony).



Rights, Permission, and Music Rentals

Proper production and musical rights must be attained to participate in The KPA Bradley Awards/Jimmy Awards®.

If you make any changes to the production including changes to the structure, dialogue, lyrics, casting, music, characters, story, etc., you must receive written permission from the company that owns the production rights. Upon request, you must also be able to submit written proof of permitted changes. Failure to receive permission from the publishing company and/or provide written proof if requested, may result in disqualification from awards and/or the showcase.

When/if applicable, each school should plan to retain copies of the full conductor's score, libretto, and the individual instrument books in the event they receive a nomination for Best Overall Musical Production and/or a nomination for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role and are invited to perform at The KPA Bradley Awards' final ceremony. Arrangements will be made by KPA with all participating licensing houses for schools to retain their music rentals through The KPA Bradley Awards at no additional cost.

Group and Production Photos:

All schools are required to submit the following photos no later than one week after their show's closing. Additional information on how to provide these photos will be provided to participating schools.

1. One (high-resolution HORIZONTAL group photo including the cast and crew. This photo will be used as your school photo in KPA Bradley Awards materials.

2. At least three (3) but no more than ten (10) overall production photos of good quality.

Additionally, each school should ensure there are at least three (3) production photos taken of each performer adjudicated for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role. This is a requirement of the Jimmy Awards® and will be required if the student is ultimately selected to attend The Jimmy Awards®

All photos must be JPG photos and at least 300 dpi (preferably 600 dpi). Please note: Most smart phones can capture a high-resolution photo; however, if the file size is less than 1 MB, the photo resolution will not be high enough.

Evaluation Surveys

Teachers and students will be asked to complete printed or electronic surveys following certain program activities. KPA may also request letters of support and testimonials. Surveys will evaluate participants' experiences and aid in the development of future program activities; completion of these evaluations may be required for a school to be eligible for future participation in The KPA Bradley Awards.

Primary and Secondary Contact

Each school must identify a primary contact person on the online application form. The primary contact should have regular access to phone and email as all major correspondence regarding the program will be directed to this person. In addition, a secondary contact person must also be identified on the online registration form. Both contacts must be an employee of the school and can be a teacher, administrator, support staff, etc. Neither contact person may be a parent or a student.

These contacts should be committed to submitting information throughout the year to The KPA Bradley Awards, as well as communicating details to students and parents.



PUBLICITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

One of the goals of The KPA Bradley Awards is to enhance visibility of participating high school theatre programs. KPA may share production photos and show information from participating high school musicals on the KPA and KPA Bradley Awards websites and social media accounts. KPA may also share your show information with media personnel. We want to help promote your show! Participating schools will be asked to submit electronic posters and any marketing materials. Please follow and tag us with your photos on social media:

- Facebook: thebradleyawards
- Instagram: @thebradleyawards
- X (formerly Twitter): @bradleyawards
- Hashtags: #KPABradleyAwards #JimmyAwards

All participating high schools are required to feature a 2025–2026 KPA Bradley Awards Participation Statement and The KPA Bradley Awards logo as a part of their printed or digital program books. Inclusion of this information serves as the school's endorsement of the program. A copy of The KPA Bradley Awards Participation Statement will be provided to participating schools along with social media graphics upon learning their acceptance to participate in this year's program, no later than Thursday, October 2, 2025. KPA also encourages high schools to announce their participation and encourage ticket sales for the 2025–2026 KPA Bradley Awards final ceremony in school newspapers, school/department websites, social media sites, and newsletters.

AWARD CATEGORIES

The nominees and winners of these awards are determined by scoring from adjudicators who attend schools' productions:

- **Outstanding Technical Execution**
- **Outstanding Dance Execution**
- **Outstanding Ensemble Performance**
- **Best Actor in a Supporting Role**
- **Best Actress in a Supporting Role**
- **Best Actor in a Leading Role**
- **Best Actress in a Leading Role**
- **Best Overall Musical Production**

Teacher-nominated/submitted Awards

Educators at each participating school may submit nomination forms for students in these categories. The final nominees and winners for these awards are determined by a panel that reviews the teacher-submitted nomination forms.

- **Behind The Scenes Excellence**
- **Outstanding Community Engagement** (i.e. fundraising for charity, raising awareness of an important issue, etc.)

Student-nominated/submitted Awards

Students at each participating school may submit nomination forms for themselves or other individuals in these categories. The final nominees and winners for these awards are determined by a panel that reviews the student-submitted nomination forms.

- **Student Reporter Recognition**
- **Outstanding Student Designer**
- **Outstanding Arts Mentor**

Each category will have as many as five final nominees identified; these nominees will be acknowledged at the final awards ceremony, with one of the nominees identified as the winner in each category.



CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

Only high school students currently enrolled in grades 9 through 12 at the time of their adjudicated performance are eligible to be nominated for individual award categories. Schools that have co-productions and/or shared performers, schools that allow home school students, or schools that allow students from other high schools to participate in their productions are eligible to participate; however, a student may receive a KPA Bradley Awards nomination only for their role in one musical production. In the event a student is nominated for multiple roles, the role that receives the highest adjudicator score will receive a nomination.

Best Overall Musical Production

Up to five high school musical theatre productions are recognized as nominees in this award category that recognizes comprehensive excellence of a production. The nominees and one winner are determined by adjudicator scores. High schools receiving nominations for Best Overall Musical Production are required to perform an ensemble number from their nominated musical at the final awards ceremony for The KPA Bradley Awards, although this performance is not scored and will not affect the award winner selection process.

Best Actor in a Leading Role and Best Actress in a Leading Role

To be eligible to participate in The Jimmy Awards®, the Best Actor and Best Actress in a Leading Role winners must have played a NHSMTA® -recognized leading role in their school's production ([click here for more](#)). For this reason, only students playing a NHSMTA® -recognized leading role in their high school's production will be eligible for The KPA Bradley Awards' Best Actor and/or Best Actress in a Leading Role.

Previous winners of The KPA Bradley Awards Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role categories (those selected to attend The Jimmy Awards®) are not eligible to be one of the five final nominees in this category for a second time; however, if they are cast in a qualifying leading role in a participating school's production, they will still receive written feedback relevant to their performance. Students who were previously one of the five final nominees for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role, but who have not received the award in the category, are eligible to once again be nominated.

Due to the nature of the award, the winners of the Best Actor and Best Actress in a Leading Role are determined by both a production and audition score. Eligible students receive a production score from the adjudicators that attend their school productions. While this score is used to determine the nominees in each category, the adjudicated score only counts as 65% of the total score used to determine which nominee wins each category.

Nominees in these categories attend a panel audition in Louisville, Kentucky on Friday, May 29, 2026, as part of a rehearsal day for the final awards ceremony. The scores from the panel audition count as 35% of the total score and are combined with semifinalists' production scores to determine the winner of each category. The award recipient is not notified or announced until the awards ceremony.

Up to ten students receive nominations for Best Actor and Best Actress in a Leading Role (up to five nominees in each category) and perform a solo from their nominated role at the final awards ceremony as part of the Best Actor and Best Actress medley numbers. These performances during the award ceremony are not scored and have no bearing on who receives the award.

Please note: Nominees for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role are required to attend rehearsals and the audition panel for the final awards ceremony all day on Friday, May 29, Saturday, May 30, and Sunday, May 31, 2026, in Louisville, KY. We cannot approve any absences of any kind during these three days. At this time, we are unable to provide overnight housing or transportation, which will be the responsibility of the students and their parents/school.

While the gender-based naming of these categories is based upon requirements for The Jimmy Awards®, students are adjudicated in the category corresponding to their gender identification, not the gender of the role they are playing (for example, a female-identifying student recognized for a performance in the role of Tevye in FIDDLER ON THE ROOF will be nominated in the Best Actress in a Leading Role category). Students identifying as non-binary or gender-fluid may choose to either select the category in which they wish to be adjudicated (regardless of the gender of the role) OR they may be adjudicated based on the gender of the role they played.

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Best Actor/Actress in a Supporting Role

A “supporting role” should support the forward motion of the story but not be listed as an NHSMTA® Qualifying Role. Eligibility requires these characters to be easily identifiable and have spoken lines, dance/movement, and a vocal performance. Schools may identify one performer to be considered in each for Best Supporting Actor and Actress (meaning some schools may need to choose from multiple students whose roles fit this category). Not every musical will have appropriate roles for these categories. Up to ten total student performers (five actors and five actresses) are recognized as nominees in these two categories. Nominees and winners are determined by adjudicator scores.

Students are adjudicated in the category corresponding to their gender identification, not the gender of the role they are playing. Students identifying as non-binary or gender-fluid may choose to either select the category in which they wish to be adjudicated (regardless of the gender of the role) OR they may be adjudicated based on the gender of the role they played.

Outstanding Arts Mentor

Students from each participating school may nominate one adult for this category who has been instrumental in creating an educational, empowering, and welcoming environment for their school’s theatre program. Up to five final nominees and a winner are selected based on a panel review of all submitted nominations from students/schools. Only one nomination submission is accepted per school, so cast/crew members should work together on the official nomination for this category (submission instructions to be provided to participating schools during orientation).

Outstanding Ensemble Performance

Up to five productions are recognized as nominees in this award category recognizing the comprehensive excellence of a show’s ensemble. The nominees and winners are determined by adjudicator scores.

Please note: At least 80% of the total ensemble must be high school students to be eligible for Outstanding Ensemble. No more than 20% of the total ensemble may consist of non-high school students.

Outstanding Dance Execution

Up to five productions are recognized as nominees in this award category. The nominees and winners are determined by adjudicator scores. This award category focuses on the cast’s execution of choreography, as opposed to strictly assessing the creative choices of a choreographer.

Please note: At least 80% of the total ensemble must be high school students to be eligible for an Outstanding Dance Execution. No more than 20% of the total ensemble may consist of non-high school students.

Outstanding Technical Execution

Up to five productions are recognized as nominees in this award category recognizing comprehensive excellence in execution of technical theatrical elements (transitions, cues, cohesion of technical elements, etc.) The nominees and winner are determined by adjudicator scores.

Please note: At least 80% of the total technical run crew must be high school students to be eligible for Outstanding Technical Execution. No more than 20% of the total technical run crew may consist of non-high school students.

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Behind The Scenes Excellence

Up to five students or groups of students demonstrating excellence “behind the scenes” are recognized as nominees in this award category. Teachers are responsible for nominating students for this award; nominations may focus on an individual student, or a group of students. The nomination must demonstrate how the individual or group made significant non-performance-based contributions to the musical production. This can include (but is not limited to) backstage crews/crew members, student designers, students overseeing show marketing/box office operations, or other types of contributions.

An adjudication panel selects the final nominees and winners in this category. Only one nomination submission is accepted per school (submission instructions to be provided to participating schools at orientation).

Outstanding Community Engagement

Up to five schools are announced as nominees in this category recognizing productions that seek to make a difference in their community beyond their onstage performances. Activities recognized in this category can range from raising funds for a community organization, raising awareness of an important issue, civic engagement, or other types of activities. Ideally these activities will thoughtfully leverage themes/issues from the school’s specific production and/or highlight the specific types of community impact that can be made by artists in society.

An adjudication panel selects the final nominees and winners in this category. Only one nomination submission is accepted per school (submission instructions to be provided to participating schools at orientation).

Outstanding Student Designer

Up to five students demonstrating excellence in costume, hair & makeup, lighting, scenic, sound, and/or props design are recognized as nominees in this award category. Students nominate themselves for this category. An adjudication panel selects the final nominees and winners in this category. Multiple students from the same school may apply for this award, although they must apply individually (no group nominations for this award).

Student Reporter Recognition

Up to two students with an expressed interest in arts journalism, marketing, advertising and/or social media content creation are selected as Student Reporters for The KPA Bradley Awards. Students nominate themselves for this category; the two Student Reporters will be selected by a panel that reviews the applications. Interested students must still be an enrolled student in grades 9–12 within our program’s region, but do not have to be attending one of the participating schools selected for the 2025–2026 program. Multiple students from the same school may apply. Applications for this category will be shared with participating schools by Monday, October 13, 2026.

The applicants recognized as KPA Bradley Awards Student Reporters:

- Receive recognition during The KPA Bradley Awards Ceremony.
- Collaborate with KPA’s Marketing team to promote the awards and curate the awards’ social media content around The KPA Bradley Awards.
- Serve as red carpet hosts for the awards ceremony, interviewing nominees and hosting a pre-show livestream on social media.
- As desired, participate in informational interviews and college/career coaching with KPA Administrative Staff.
- Are nominated by The KPA Bradley Awards for participation in [The Jimmy Awards® Student Reporter Program](#), which includes an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City to cover The Jimmy Awards®.

Showcase Ensemble

While not an award category, each school selects two students to represent their cast in The KPA Bradley Awards Showcase Ensemble that performs in the opening and closing numbers of the awards ceremony. Additional guidelines on this selection process will be provided to participating schools during the virtual orientation. Students in the Showcase Ensemble will receive rehearsal materials in advance and are expected to self-prepare and rehearse in advance of the awards ceremony weekend. They are also required to attend rehearsals in Louisville, KY all day May 30, 2026, and the morning/afternoon prior to the awards ceremony on May 31, 2026



TIMELINE OVERVIEW FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Monday, August 4, 2025

The 2025–2026 KPA Bradley Awards School Participation Application OPENS. You will find the application link on page 3 of this document.

Monday, August 18, 2025

Optional, virtual Town Hall for Participating Schools interested in applying, registration required. (Register [HERE](#)).

Monday, September 15, 2025

Application for participating school closes, all submissions due by 11:59 p.m. ET.

Friday, September 26, 2025

All schools that have applied will be notified whether they are formally invited to participate in the 2025–2026 KPA Bradley Awards.

Tuesday, October 7, 2025, and Thursday, October 9, 2025

The first two (of four) virtual orientations offered.

- School representatives must attend an orientation prior to their production's opening night. (Fall musicals must attend one of the October dates; Spring musicals must attend one of the October or January dates.)

Friday, October 10, 2025

Public Announcement of Participating Schools for The 2025–2026 KPA Bradley Awards

Monday, October 13, 2025

Nomination forms released for Outstanding Arts Mentor, Outstanding Student Designer, Behind the Scenes Excellence, Outstanding Community Engagement, and Student Reporter Recognition categories.

Thursday, October 30, 2025 – Sunday, April 26, 2026

Adjudication of musicals.

- Pre-Show information form due from each participating school two weeks prior to their production's opening night (provides relevant information for adjudicators).

Friday, December 12, 2025

\$150 Participation Fee Due

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 & Thursday, January 8, 2026

The final two virtual orientations offered for Participating School representatives.

By Friday, January 16, 2026

Student Reporter Recognition Applications DUE

By Friday, April 3, 2026

Showcase Ensemble Nominations DUE

By Thursday, April 23, 2026

Nominations DUE: Outstanding Arts Mentor, Outstanding Student Designer, Behind the Scenes Excellence, and Outstanding Community Engagement

Thursday, May 7, 2025

Nominations Announcement

- One week ticketing presale window for Participating Schools opens
- Final ceremony logistics coordinated; this period will require significant communication from and coordination with participating schools.

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TIMELINE OVERVIEW FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Mid-May 2026

Tickets on sale to the public

Friday, May 29, 2026

Rehearsals in Louisville, KY; all nominees for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role required to participate in rehearsals and audition panel on this day. Some schools nominated for Best Overall Musical Production will have rehearsal on this day.

Saturday, May 30, 2026

Rehearsals continue for all students participating in the opening and closing numbers including the Showcase Ensemble AND all nominees for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role. Throughout the morning/afternoon, staging rehearsals continue for remaining nominees in Best Overall Musical Production category.

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Final Tech/Dress Rehearsals and The KPA Bradley Awards Ceremony in Louisville, KY.

TBD Dates in June 2026

Each student recognized as the winner for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role at The KPA Bradley Awards ceremony spends approximately 10 days in New York City participating in workshops, rehearsals, and masterclasses leading up to participation the Jimmy Awards® ceremony in a Broadway theater.

SCORING RUBRICS

Please review the scoring rubrics used by our adjudicators to rate performances and various production elements [HERE](#).

Questions?

Please contact us at bainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org.

**Thank you for your interest in The KPA Bradley Awards!
We're excited to celebrate our region's young artists with you.**

