



2018 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest Fact Sheet

- The **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest** is open to all students in grades K–8.*
- The **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest** attracted nearly 250,000 participants in 2018, the 27th anniversary of the contest.
- Zaner-Bloser estimates that approximately 4.5 million students have participated in the contest since its inception.
- Students in grades K–2 submit manuscript (print) entries; students in grades 3–8 submit cursive handwriting entries.
- The contest entries, both manuscript (print) and cursive, are judged according to the Zaner-Bloser Keys to Legibility™: Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant.
- The sentence all students are required to write on their entry form is chosen because it contains every letter of the alphabet: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.
- Winners of the **Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest** are selected from both public and private school categories.
- State Grade-Level Winners from each category (public and private) compete against each other to become one of the 18 National Grade-Level Semifinalists.
- The 18 National Grade-Level Semifinalists compete to be chosen as one of nine Grand National Grade-Level Champions.
- In 2011 Zaner-Bloser created the Nicholas Maxim Award to recognize special needs students who excel in manuscript and cursive. The award is named in honor of a student who entered the contest despite having been born without hands. This category is open to students with a cognitive, intellectual, physical, or developmental disability.
- Zaner-Bloser awards cash prizes and educational materials to winner students, teachers, and schools. Each Grand National Champion earns a large trophy, \$500 cash, and educational materials valued at \$1,000 for his/her school. In addition, the teacher of each Grand National Champion is awarded the choice to attend either the International Literacy Association Annual Conference or the Staff Development for Educators National Conference, both in July.

*The contest is open to everyone in the United States (excludes U.S. territories).

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