

Project INSPIRE is excited to announce our annual Mathlete Competition. On May 2, 2026, braille readers from grades 6 to 12 from across the U.S. and Canada will compete in our annual virtual Mathlete Competition. Events include:



- **Sprint Round:** Read a problem written in words and select the correct way to braille the problem from the 3 answer choices.
- **You Solve It Round:** Read and solve a math problem using the order of operations.
- **You Write It Round:** Listen to a math problem being read aloud and then braille the problem.
- **Relay Round:** Solve a math problem and then plug the answer into the next problem.

When you register your child, you'll need to know which competition to select for them. Please consult with your child's teacher of students with visual impairments and/or math teacher so that they are entered into the competition where they will be successful.

- **Junior Mathletes** should be able to read, write, and solve problems in braille that contain fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, degrees, exponents, and grouping symbols. They should also be able to solve problems using what they know about the order of operations.
- **Senior Mathletes** should be proficient with all of the Junior Mathlete content. In addition, they should be able to read, write, and solve longer problems in braille that may contain radicals, absolute value, negative numbers, and geometry.

You will also need to tell us if your child:

- Uses Nemeth or UEB Math/Science (also called UEB Math or UEB Technical).
- Will have a Perkins braille writer for the practice and competition.
- Needs an addition/subtraction and/or multiplication/division chart.

Mathletes may use an abacus during competition but they may not use a calculator, smartphone, tablet, computer, or braille notetaker.

Each mathlete who participates in the competition will receive a certificate and t-shirt. Medals will be awarded to mathletes who place 1st, 2nd and 3rd in their category.

We will hold the Saturday events via Zoom beginning at 11:30 AM Eastern, 10:30 AM Central, 9:30 AM Mountain, and 8:30 AM Pacific. We will set up an alternative time for mathletes in Hawaii, Alaska, or US territories.

- Strategies and Math Tips Session on March 21 for 1.5 hours (optional, but highly recommended)
- Practice Session on April 11 for 1.5 hours (optional, but highly recommended)
- COMPETITION!!! – May 2 for 2 hours
- Award Ceremony – May 16 for 1 hour

If your child is interested in this competition, please register them by March 25, 2026, at https://uofsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9pN0bRdysk8JTpk

We will mail all mathletes practice materials for the April 11 practice session. Answer keys will be posted on our website at: <https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/resource/mathlete-competition/>.

MATHLETES WILL NEED A PERKINS BRAILLE WRITER FOR THE STRATEGIES AND MATH TIPS SESSIONS, PRACTICE SESSION, AND COMPETITION.

If you have questions, contact Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum rosenblu@arizona.edu or Dr. Tina Herzberg at herzberg@uscupstate.edu, 864-503-5572.



Register today for the Project INSPIRE Mathlete Competition! Registration closes March 25.