

## NCPTA Guidelines for Reflections Students with Developmental Disabilities/Delays

**Definition of Developmental Delay/Disability:** A child, youth, or adult, ages 3-21, whose development and/or behavior is delayed or atypical, as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, and who by reason of the delay needs special education, therapy, or psychological services, and/or extensive modifications, adaptations in order to receive a free and appropriate public education.

*Modified and adapted from 2008 NC Department of Public Instruction Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities.*

National PTA and NCPTA believe that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Reflections Program at the state and national levels do not have special divisions for students with disabilities. NCPTA believes that students with disabilities should be placed in the Reflections program grade/age division that best reflects the student's developmental age. To honor this belief, NCPTA established guidelines to classify entrants by developmental age/grade so that students can participate with their peers, accommodate for their differences, and advance to local, district, state, and possibly national levels of the program. The NCPTA Reflections Committee and NCPTA Exceptional Children Commission have collaborated to establish these guidelines.

### **In addition to these guidelines; you must adhere to the NCPTA Reflections eligibility requirements.**

1. Students with developmental disabilities or delays may choose not to disclose their disability and may choose to enter in their chronological age/grade division. The student must follow the Reflections entry guidelines as a student without a disability.
2. If students with developmental delays/disabilities choose to accommodate for their disability by entering a reflections age/grade category that best reflects their developmental age or ability, the **Reflections Exceptionality Form MUST** be completed and submitted with their entry(ies) and all other required forms.  
  
❖ **BE SURE TO CHECK THE "SPECIAL NEEDS PARTICIPANT" BOX ON STUDENT ENTRY FORM.**
3. Students who choose to submit the Reflections Exceptionality Form **MUST** have an official diagnosis of developmental delay/disability in one or more developmental areas by an appropriate professional and/or have an appropriate public school Exceptional Children's Classification, and/or a 504 Plan.
4. The student, if appropriate, the immediate caregiver (legal guardian or parent) and another professional (school teacher, therapist, physician, healthcare provider etc) who has good knowledge of the student's disability(ies) and abilities must sign and verify that the information provided on the Reflections Exceptionality Form is accurate and true to the best of their knowledge.
5. It is possible for a student to have different developmental delays/disabilities that may affect each category (Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, and Film/Video Production) differently. The persons completing and verifying the Reflections Exceptionality Form should make this determination. A separate Reflections Exceptionality Form **MUST** accompany each Reflection category entry (along with all other required forms) and indicate the appropriate age/grade division on the form.
6. The local Reflections Chair will verify the age/grade division on the official entry as indicated on the Reflections Exceptionality Form. Once the age/grade division is verified and placed on the entry, the age/grade division cannot be not be changed or appealed. The Exceptionality form will be removed from the entry and filed with the

local Reflections Chair who initially received the entry. The Reflections Chair may consult with the Council, District or State Reflections Chair if questions or concerns develop. The entry will be judged alongside those of age appropriate peers at the appropriate age/grade level indicated on the Reflections Exceptionality Form. The judges will have no indication of the disability or delay.

7. If an age/division level is not available at the student's current school, the school/local Reflections Chair should direct the entrant to contact the NCPTA Cultural Arts Chair at the NCPTA State Office, who will identify a school to the entrant. Every attempt will be made to assign the entrant to an appropriate school closest to their home. However, the entrant is responsible for transporting the entry to the designated school. The entry(ies) will be judged with age/division appropriate entries as indicated on the Exceptionality Form at the designated school and advance to the next level of judging in accordance with Reflections procedure.
8. If a PTA Reflections Program is sponsored at a school specifically for children with disabilities, entrants may continue to be grouped according to developmental age verses chronological age so that these entries can advance and compete at the county, district, state, and national levels. **An Exceptionality Form MUST to be completed for each entry and the entry placed in the appropriate age/grade division indicated on the form for entry into district, state or national levels.**
9. According to Reflections Policy, there will be no appeals to the judge's final decision regardless of completion of the Reflections Exceptionality form or disability/delay.

# NCPTA Reflections Exceptionality Form

This form is a tool to help family members determine the most appropriate grade/age level for their student's entry into the PTA Reflections Program.

In addition to this form, please complete all other required forms for entry into the Reflections Program in accordance with Reflections guidelines.

**BE SURE TO CHECK THE "SPECIAL NEEDS PARTICIPANT" BOX ON STUDENT ENTRY FORM.**

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Chronological Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's area of developmental delay and/or disability \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe how the student's developmental delay or disability would prevent or significantly impact entry into the chronological age/grade category: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Based on the following evidence (check three or more)

- Psychological testing/reports
- Educational testing/reports
- Neurological /motor evaluation
- Student work samples/performance
- Healthcare provider, therapist, or teacher observations
- Parent/Legal Guardian input/observation
- Student input and experience if appropriate
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

To the best of our knowledge, we have determined that the grade/age division that best reflects the student's developmental age/grade for \_\_\_\_\_ Reflections Category is (circle one).

Primary: Preschool – Grade 2, age 3-7

Intermediate: Grades 3-5, age 8-10

Middle/Junior: Grades 6-8, ages 11-13

Senior: Grades 9-12, ages 14 and above

We understand that the grade/age division indicated on this form cannot be changed once the entry is submitted. We understand that the judges will be unaware of the student's developmental disability or delay. We understand that the local PTA Reflections Chair and NCPTA Cultural Arts Chair receiving the application and Exceptionality Form will be aware of the student's disability/delay in order to submit the entry in the grade division indicated on this form and track participation. The form will remain on file with the local Reflections' Chair and NCPTA Cultural Arts Chair. Forms will be returned or destroyed after the Reflections Program is concluded and will only be used for the above stated purpose.

---

Please Print Parent or Legal Guardians Name

Signature

---

Please Print Educator/Health Care Providers' Name, Title and/or Credentials

Signature

---

Please Print Students Name (if appropriate)

Signature

DO NOT SEND IEPS, REPORTS, WRITTEN OBSERVATIONS, OR EVALUATIONS.

**Submit this form to your local Reflections Chair.**