

Speak Up - Act Out Drama Competition 2026/27

Conditions and Regulations

1. The Organiser

The Speak Up - Act Out Drama Competition 2026/27 is organised by the Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Section, Curriculum Development Institute (CDI), Education Bureau.

2. Aims

Drama provides students with greater exposure to authentic English and opportunities to use English creatively, contributing to whole-person development.

The aim of the Speak Up - Act Out Drama Competition is to empower students to use drama both within and beyond the English language classroom.

Students will:

- explore situations, characters, ideas and feelings through drama;
- express themselves confidently and creatively in English using both physical and vocal expression; and
- develop collaboration skills while demonstrating positive values and attitudes.

3. Description of the Competition

The competition is open to public sector secondary schools in Hong Kong, including schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme.

Teachers and students are encouraged to practise devising short dramas in English using improvisation techniques throughout the year as a curricular or co-curricular activity. The school team that enters the competition will consist of four to six students and will be given two weeks to devise a 4 to 5-minute drama based on the stimulus provided for the competition.

4. Schedule of Events and Submission Deadlines

Event	Date or Deadline	Document(s) and Remarks
NET Section Competitions Briefing – Speak Up - Act Out Drama Competition 2026/27 (online)	28 September 2026 (Mon) 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	EDB Training Calendar System online application Course ID: CDI020270325
Deadline for submission of online Entry Form with School Confirmation	6 November 2026 (Fri) 5:00 p.m.	Online Entry Form School Confirmation
Speak Up - Act Out Drama professional development workshop WP01A, Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong	18 November 2026 (Wed) 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	EDB Training Calendar System online application Course ID: CDI020270340 <i>Highly recommended for teachers new to Speak Up - Act Out</i>

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Submission of the online team name list	At least two weeks before the competition sessions	The team name list form will be emailed to schools together with the details of the allocated competition dates and venues. The team name list will be used on the day of the competition and for issuing certificates. Please ensure that the students' names are spelled correctly and in the correct format.
Distribution of competition stimulus	Approximately two weeks before each competition session	Email from the NET Section to contact teachers
Speak Up - Act Out Drama Competition Sessions	26 February 2027 (Fri) 2 March 2027 (Tue) 9 March 2027 (Tue) 10 March 2027 (Wed) 11 March 2027 (Thu)	Tsuen Wan Town Hall HKBUEAS Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School Pooi To Middle School HKBUEAS Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School Pooi To Middle School All sessions will be conducted in the afternoon.
Collection of certificates	June 2027	NET Section, Tsuen Wan

5. Conditions for Entry

- 5.1. The competition entry form must be submitted on or before the entry deadline.
- 5.2. The teacher-in-charge of the competition is strongly encouraged to attend the Speak Up - Act Out Drama Competition Briefing Session (online) (see details above).
- 5.3. Schools may enter only one team as places are limited. If the competition is oversubscribed, entries will be accepted on a **first-come, first-served** basis.
- 5.4. A Speak Up - Act Out Drama professional development workshop (6 hours) will be offered to teachers entering students in the competition. The workshop focuses on using improvised drama techniques to devise a staged drama performance. Teachers who have not participated in the competition before are strongly encouraged to attend the workshop.

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- 5.5. Teams must consist of **four to six students**. The students may come from the same or different year levels.
- 5.6. The students are solely responsible for devising a drama based on the stimulus provided.
- 5.7. The online team name list must be submitted no later than two weeks before the date of the competition session. Student No. 1 on the list will be the designated Team Leader on the day of the competition. Team Leaders will be asked to announce the title of the drama before the performance begins.
- 5.8. The team name list will also be used to issue the certificates. Teachers are responsible for ensuring that all the student names submitted are spelled correctly and in the correct format.
- 5.9. If a student is ill on the day of the competition, teams may choose to perform with a replacement student as a stand-in. The full name of the replacement student must be provided at the registration table on the day of the competition.
- 5.10. Certificates will be available for collection at the NET Section office in Tsuen Wan after the competition sessions. The teacher-in-charge will be notified by email when the certificates are ready for collection.

6. Regulations

- 6.1. The drama performance must be based on the stimulus provided.
- 6.2. The order in which teams perform will be decided by lucky draw at the competition session.
- 6.3. No written scripts or notecards are allowed during the performance.
- 6.4. All students and teachers must stay for the entire event.
- 6.5. All team members must be actively involved in the performance.
- 6.6. Eight seats will be allocated to each team, including two seats for teachers. If teachers would like extra seats, they must contact the NET Section in advance.
- 6.7. All team members must wear sports shoes, solid black T-shirts, and dark comfortable pants suitable for drama. Long hair should be tied back so that the judges can see the performers' faces clearly.
- 6.8. The time allowed for each performance is 4-5 minutes. A warning bell will be rung once at 4 minutes and a final bell twice at 5 minutes. On the final bell, the student speaking may finish their sentence. The performance must then stop, and the team must return to their seats.
- 6.9. No stage sets, lighting, music, costumes, props, or make-up are permitted. Two chairs will be provided for the performance, but standing on the chairs is not permitted.
- 6.10. Teams must behave like a good theatre audience. They must be attentive and

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respectful, and mobile phones must be switched off. Teams may be penalised for being disruptive after receiving one warning.

6.11. A stimulus for the dramas will be sent to the teacher-in-charge by email approximately two weeks before each competition session. After receiving the stimulus, teachers should provide the following support in a supervisory role:

- Structure improvisations with drama activities like Tableaux (Still Images/ Freeze Frame), Picture Postcards, The Martha Game, and improvisation skills like Miming, Focusing, Offering, Accepting and Extending so that students can explore the stimulus and devise their drama “through play”.
- Introduce planning strategies like brainstorming ideas, mapping out the plot, storyboarding, developing dialogue, and viewing photos and videos of their improvisations.
- Organise reflection sessions, encouraging students to make their drama more interesting and entertaining, for example, by developing characters, action sequences and dramatic elements like exposition, tension/ conflict and dramatic climaxes.

6.12. The decision of the judging panel is considered final, and no correspondence will be entered into after the results are announced.

7. Adjudication and Criteria

The judging panels will include representatives from the EDB, drama instructors, and English teachers with a background in drama. Student performances will be assessed on the criteria below:

A.	Content & Creativity	<i>Creativity & response to stimulus</i> <i>Character development</i> <i>Use of dialogue</i> <i>Plot structure</i>
B.	Use of Language	<i>Range of vocabulary & language structures</i> <i>Pronunciation & fluency</i>
C.	Performance Skills	<i>Voice projection</i> <i>Vocal expression</i> <i>Physical expression</i> <i>Dramatic techniques</i> <i>Use of space</i> <i>Teamwork</i>

The full criteria can be found [here](#).

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8. Awards and Certificates

Awards and prizes will be presented at each session of the competition.

Team Prizes	
1 st Prize	Trophy + certificates + \$1000 book coupons
2 nd Prize	Trophy + certificates + \$800 book coupons
3 rd Prize	Trophy + certificates + \$600 book coupons
Merit prizes (x2)	Trophy + certificates + \$500 book coupons
Individual Prizes	
Speak Up - Act Out Superstar Performer	Trophy + certificates + \$400 book coupons
Speak Up - Act Out Star Performer (x2)	Trophy + certificates + \$200 book coupons
Notes: • Certificates of Participation will be awarded to all teams that did not win a team prize. • A Popular Vote prize will also be presented at each session. The winners of the popular vote award will receive certificates and \$300 book coupons.	

9. Competition Entry

To enter the competition:

1. Complete the School Confirmation form with the school chop and principal's signature.
2. Scan the School Confirmation form and save it as a pdf file.
3. Complete the online [Entry Form](#), upload the completed [School Confirmation form](#), and click submit.

Please submit your entry by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, 6 November 2026**.

10. Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact:

Stephen COOLEY at 3549 8361 or by email at cooley@edb.gov.hk

Alice LEUNG at 3549 8315 or by email at aliceosleung@edb.gov.hk