



# Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

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## Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival State One-Act Play Contest

- Each year, 65-80 schools across the state participate in the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association (WHSFA) One-Act Play contest series. The first official contest level involves 12 geographic *districts*. Schools earning at least two nominations from three adjudicators (judges) – on the basis of **potential** – at the district level are invited to participate in one of five geographic *sections*. At the sectional level, schools earning at least two nominations from three adjudicators (judges) – on the basis of **polish and “state ready”** – are invited to participate in the State Festival. Typically, about 40-50 schools are invited to present at the State level as part of the larger *Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival*.
- At the State Festival, schools may earn several awards upon nomination by two of four adjudicators, respected artists and practitioners who are drawn from professional, collegiate, community, and education theatre backgrounds. These awards include:
  - Merit Awards** (each school can earn any of these)
    - **Directing:** interpretation and staging of the production is cohesive and imaginative.
    - **Ensemble:** the company collaborates well, driving effective pacing of the production.
    - **Crew:** technical elements communicate and enhance the audience’s experience.
    - **Acting:** actors bring authentic, memorable, and poignant characters to life on stage (available to any number of actors in each cast).
  - Overall Award** (each school earns one of these)
    - **All-State:** represents a school’s achievement of advancing to, and performing at the State Festival (default award a school gets if it does not achieve *Critic’s Choice*).
    - **Critic’s Choice:** represents the highest standards of excellence at the State Festival. Criteria for consideration include innovative vision, authentic storytelling, and artistic development; the production should clearly support learning and development of students.
- Like solo and ensemble contests run by the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA), the WHSFA festival series is **non-competitive/non-comparative**. If schools achieve the benchmark number of nominations, they advance or earn awards. The WHSFA, alongside the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and WSMA, is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), which provides standards for interscholastic athletics and performing arts activities.
- **Award statistics for 2018**(November 15-17 at Viterbo University, La Crosse)
  - Participating schools: 38
  - Directing: 18 schools
  - Ensemble: 30 schools
  - Crew: 19 schools
  - Acting: 159 students
  - Critic’s Choice: 22 schools

Questions: Adam Jacobi, *Contest Director* • adam@whsfa.org • (920) 355-1895