

MDTA Program Grant Application

Grant Program Information and Guidelines

The Minnesota Debate Teachers Association (“MDTA”) is offering grants for the financial support of high school debate programs in Minnesota. MDTA anticipates offering grants of approximately \$1500 each for the 2024-2025 school year. The final number and amount of grants awarded will be determined after applications are reviewed.

Schools receiving grants may use the funds to support any costs reasonably associated with the operations of the debate team, including but not limited to entry fees, supplies, coaching stipends and transportation.

MDTA will take numerous factors into consideration in selecting grant recipients. Preference will be given to schools that commit some of their own resources to support the team and do not rely solely on the grant. Preference will also be given to new programs, to programs with new coaches, and to programs that face other challenges to their existence and operations. MDTA may conduct interviews of applicant coaches and administrators.

Programs that receive grants will be expected to compete actively during the 2024-2025 debate season. This includes attending at least five invitationals or regional league tournaments during the regular season. Recipients are also required to register for debate with the Minnesota State High School League and will be expected to attend their MSHSL section tournament or state festival, if one is held for the debate format in which the program competes. (I.e., if the recipient program competes in policy, Lincoln-Douglas, public forum, or congressional debate, they must attend the section tournament, as well as the state tournament if they qualify for it. If the program participates in classic debate, it must attend the classic state festival.) Recipients are also highly encouraged to join the National Speech and Debate Association and attend their district tournament.

To be eligible, applicant programs must have an adult coach who is not a high school student during the 2024-2025 school year. Applications must also be approved by the school’s principal or other administrator responsible for overseeing the debate program.

Completed applications should be submitted by **June 1, 2024** to:

Minnesota Debate Teachers Association
c/o Rachel Baumann
Farmington High School
20655 Flagstaff Avenue
Farmington, MN 55024

Application

Name of School: _____

Debate Coach: _____

Principal/Administrator: _____

Debate Format(s) You Intend to Support: _____

Is your school registered for debate with the MSHSL? _____

Is your school a member of the National Speech and Debate Association? _____

Has your school participated in debate in recent years? _____

If yes, please describe your program's recent history: _____

Describe the student population your school serves: _____

What support is your school prepared to offer your program? _____

How would you use MDTA grant money? _____

What special challenges does your program face? _____

Please explain any other reasons you believe your school should receive a grant: _____

The undersigned acknowledge that, if awarded a grant by MDTA, the applicant school is expected to fulfill the following requirements:

- employ (or rely upon as a volunteer) an adult coach who will not be a high school student during the 2024-2025 academic year;
- compete actively during the 2024-2025 season of interscholastic debate, with “compete actively” being defined as attending at least five invitational or league tournaments;
- register for debate with the Minnesota State High School League;
- attend the MSHSL Section and/or State Debate Tournament or Festival if one is held for debate formats in which your school participates.

Recipient schools are also encouraged, but not required, to join the National Speech and Debate Association and attend their NSDA district tournament.

If a recipient school fails to meet these expectations, MDTA may at its discretion seek the return of all or a portion of grant funds.

Signature of Debate Coach

Signature of Principal or Administrator