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Issue Date: February 29, 2024

## Developmental Disabilities Month AOE Art Contest

### Purpose

March is Developmental Disabilities Month and the Vermont Agency of Education's Special Education Team is hosting an art contest for students with developmental disabilities. The theme for the 2024 contest is "We Are All Different and That's Beautiful."

Each school LEA may submit an entry for each grade band described below by March 26th. Please contact [Heather Willis-Doxsee](#) with any questions.

### Contest Details:

- Each LEA and Independent school eligible to receive public funds may submit one entry per grade band: PK-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12+\* (Students participating in a transition program within the LEA are eligible to participate.).
- Students should have an identified disability to participate in the contest.
- Artwork can be any original idea related to the theme "We Are All Different and That's Beautiful."
- Artwork is restricted to 8.5"x11" only. The 8.5"x11" artwork can be any medium: painting, sketch, collage, etc. Artwork smaller or larger than 8.5"x11" will not be entered into the Contest.
- The artwork must be the student's own creation. Students may not reproduce any other artist's work and present it as their own.
- The student's first and last name and grade level must be on the back of the artwork.
- Complete the official [registration form](#) available.
  - Online registration must include an uploaded signed release form by the student's guardian.
  - Online registration must include an uploaded scanned copy of the student's original artwork.
- All entries must be completed with required uploads by the end of the day on March 26, 2024.
- Judges will be looking for originality, creative techniques and the student's ability to portray the theme in their creation.
- The winners in each grade band will receive a certificate. First place winners will receive their certificate in person by a team member of the Vermont Agency of Education's Special Education Team.



- The school that the winners attend will receive a collection of books that feature individuals with disabilities as the main character that can be added to their school library.
- Winners will be notified via email using the contact information submitted in the official registration form.
- Artwork from the winners will be featured on the Vermont Agency of Education's website and social media outlets.

## **Additional Information and Resources for Developmental Disabilities Month:**

### CDC Fast Facts:

- Approximately 17% of children in the United States between the ages of three and 17 have one or more developmental disabilities or delays.
- Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas.
- These conditions begin during the developmental period, may impact day-to-day functioning, and usually last throughout a person's lifetime.
- Developmental disabilities include autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, hearing or vision loss, learning disorders and ADHD.

During the month of March, here are some ways your school district can get involved in promoting Developmental Disabilities Month.

- Share information with stakeholders from the CDC's Learn the Signs. Act Early. program or their multimedia and tools resources on your district's social media outlets. Schools can also download free materials on the CDC's website on developmental disabilities (provided in English and Spanish) that can be shared with families and school staff.
- Find ways to highlight work from artists with disabilities. [artEnables](#) and [Inclusive Arts Vermont](#) are great resources for finding artists with disabilities to feature in units of study. [View for a lesson plan](#) that can be adapted to specific grade levels that includes expansion ideas, book suggestions and features two Vermont artists with disabilities who have had films created to share their stories.
- Consider adding books to your school library that incorporate individuals with disabilities.