ARLINGTON ISD & GREATER ARLINGTON CHAMBER

WHAT'S YOUR BIG IDEA?

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONTEST

ESSAY & ART CONTEST CREATED BY KIDS, FOR KIDS

8TH GRADE

Unleash your ideas! Imagine a new product or service as part of the 21st Annual "What's Your Big Idea?" Entrepreneurship Contest. This contest is open to Arlington ISD 3rd - 8th graders with the option to enter an original essay or advertisement (art).

ENTRIES DUE: WED, NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Two Ways to Enter:

1. Attach Entry Form to your essay/advertisement and give to your teacher
2. Submit online at arlingtontx.com/bigidea

VIEW OUR COMPREHENSIVE CONTEST & PARENT GUIDES ONLINE

Contest questions? Email Education@arlingtontx.com

CONTEST CHALLENGES

1. Learn, Adapt, Succeed

Think of something that didn't work the first time. Invent a product or service that could improve the solution.

Write or draw your invention and explain what you changed, what you learned, and why it could work better.

2. Invent Something New

Create a new product or service that solves a problem or makes life easier, more fun, or better. It could be a gadget, app, game, robot, medical device, new sport, or something totally new!

E-SPACE SPONSORED CHALLENGE

3. Never Out of Reach

A storm knocks out phone service. A hiker is hurt past the last cell tower. How do you call for help or say "I'm okay" when the internet's gone? Invent a product or business that keeps people reachable when the signal fails and they need it most.

INCLUDE IN YOUR ENTRY

Answer These Questions:

What do you sell? What is it called? How does it work?

Who are your customers? Adults? Kids? Someone with a specific need? Is it for families or one person?

Why is your idea special? How is your idea different from others that already exist?

How will you tell people about your idea? How will you connect with your customers?

How will you manage your business? An online store? An app? An in-person shop?

Art Entries:

Headline: A brief phrase that gets the readers' attention

Copy: The words that explain your big idea

Graphic: A photo or drawing explaining your idea

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Completed Entry Form (see back)
PARENT SIGNATURE REQUIRED

ESSAY: 400 Word Max
TYPED OR NEATLY WRITTEN

ART: 8.5x11 Size Paper
OVERSIZED WILL BE DISQUALIFIED

USE THE PROBLEM-SOLVING MODEL

1. UNDERSTAND AND ANALYZE THE PROBLEM
2. FORMULATE A PLAN OR STRATEGY
3. DETERMINE A SOLUTION
4. JUSTIFY AND EVALUATE THE SOLUTION

WIN PRIZES FOR YOUR BIG IDEAS!

Finalists: Judges select the best ideas. All finalists receive a medal on stage at the **Awards Ceremony: Wed, Jan 20, 2027 • 4:30-6:30 • UTA College Park**



Prizes: 1st, 2nd and 3rd for each grade and category receive a trophy, tshirt and gift bag of goodies from local businesses. ANNOUNCED AT THE CEREMONY

First Place: Win a new iPad and a scholarship to attend a one-week summer camp "The Big Idea Lab" where they learn what it means to be an entrepreneur.

CONTEST GUIDE UNDERWRITER

UTA College of Business

UTA College of Engineering

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ENTRY FORM

ALL PHYISCIAL SUBMISSIONS MUST HAVE THIS FORM STAPLED AS PAGE 1 OF THE CONTEST ENTRY.

Student's First & Last Name: _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Student ID #: _____ **Grade:** _____ **Tshirt Size:** _____

Media Consent & Release for Minor Children (Must be signed by parent/guardian for students under 18 years of age). Your student's name, photograph, video footage and/or work may be used for the "What's Your Big Idea?" Entrepreneurship Contest purposes including but not limited to Programs, Video Presentations and Websites.

A tshirt is NOT guaranteed with entry. Top winners receive a tshirt. Finalists have the option to purchase at the ceremony.

Parent/Guardian's First & Last Name: _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Phone Number: _____

INCLUDE AREA CODE

School Name: _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Teacher's First & Last Name: _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

PLEASE CHECK THE BOX:

Entry Category:

ART ☐ ESSAY ☐

Contest Challenge:

GRADE-LEVEL ☐ E-SPACE ☐

Entry Language:

ENGLISH ☐ SPANISH ☐

If you are entering both categories, you must submit two separate, complete entries.

Questions: please contact education@arlingtontx.com

Submit Online and View the Comprehesive Contest Guide at arlingtontx.com/bigidea

CONTEST RULES

ENTRIES DUE: NOVEMBER 4, 2026

All entries should be submitted no later than Wednesday, November 4, 2026, either by delivering them directly to or through interoffice mail to the AISD Admin. Building ATTN: CTE (690 E. Lamar Blvd., Arlington, TX 76011) or electronically (individual students ONLY).

Each entry must reflect the theme for the appropriate grade level. Students may enter in one or both categories, but must provide a separate entry form for each entry.

All essay entries must be less than 400 words, typed (preferred) or handwritten neatly on 8.5 x 11 paper.

All art entries must be original drawings and/or computer graphics. Art may not be 3D or larger than an 8.5 x 11 paper - no legal sized paper or poster boards allowed. **Larger Entries will be disqualified**. (for organizational and judging purposes)

Each entry must have the entry form stapled as page one of the student's submission including the student name, school, grade, student ID#, category (essay or art), teacher who is providing contest direction and parent/guardian's name, signature and phone number. No identifying information should be included in the body of the essay or be visible on the artwork as these items may be used during the ceremony presentation.

Essays will be judged by the Greater Arlington Chamber and the Chamber's Workforce & Talent Strategy Committee on the basis of grade-appropriate focus and coherence, organization, development of ideas, voice and conventions (grammar, spelling and punctuation).

Art will be judged on basic principles of art and advertisement effectiveness.

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