



2025 ACT-SO Competition Overview – NAACP Hillsborough County Branch

The Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) is a youth initiative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). ACT-SO aims to recognize creative talent and academic achievement in the next generation of leaders.

Eligibility:

Students in grades 9 – 12, of African descent, who are amateurs in the competition area. All competitors must be a U.S. citizen and reside within Hillsborough County.

Competition Categories:

The ACT-SO competition contains a total of 33 disciplines that fall within six categories.

Students can select UP TO THREE disciplines listed below to compete in.

Exception: Students interested in Culinary Arts or Hospitality Management can only participate in ONE competition.

Business	Culinary	Humanities
1. Entrepreneurship 2. Hospitality Management (*)	3. Culinary Arts (**) (**) ONLY 11 th & 12 th graders with documented culinary training can participate.	4. Music Composition 5. Original Essay 6. Playwriting 7. Poetry Written 8. Short Story
Performing Arts	STEM	Visual Arts
9. Dance: Ballet 10. Dance: Contemporary 11. Dance: Modern 12. Dance: Traditional 13. Dramatic Arts: Acting 14. Music Instrumental: Classical 15. Musical Instrumental: Contemporary 16. Music Vocal: Classical 17. Music Vocal: Contemporary 18. Oratory 19. Poetry Performance	20. Architecture 21. Biology / Microbiology 22. Chemistry / Biochemistry 23. Computer Science 24. Earth & Space Science 25. Engineering 26. Mathematics 27. Medicine & Health 28. Physics	29. Drawing 30. Film Making 31. Painting 32. Photography 33. Sculpture

How to participate in the 2025 Local ACT-SO Competition (Tampa FL)


Step 1:

Attend an ACT-SO Orientation (A parent/guardian MUST attend with the applicant)

Location: NAACP Office - 5101 N 40th Street, Suite B, Tampa, FL 33610


Meeting Option 1: Tuesday December 17, 2024, at 6 PM - Please RSVP by 12/16

Meeting Option 2: Saturday January 25, 2025, at 10 AM - Please RSVP by 1/24

Scan the QR code to RSVP 	Click the link to RSVP https://forms.office.com/r/wSJZRxjXe2
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Step 2:

Submit a 2025 ACT-SO application – Deadline: Saturday January 25, 2025

Scan the QR code to access the application 	Click the link to access the application https://forms.office.com/r/hkJCE0MNKJ
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Step 3:

Attend Student Enrichment & Coaching Sessions

- Sessions will take place between February 1 and March 29, 2025
- A calendar outlining optional and required sessions will be provided later.

Step 4:

Attend the Local ACT-SO Competition

- Saturday April 5, 2025 (Location & Time To Be Announced)

Attend the School Board Recognition Meeting (Only HCPS competitors)

- Tuesday April 15, 2025 (Location & Time To Be Announced)

Attend the Local ACT-SO Awards Ceremony

- Saturday April 26, 2025 (Location & Time To Be Announced)

IMPORTANT DATES - 2025 National ACTSO Competition

Gold Medal winners of the local competition will be eligible to participate in the national ACT-SO competition in *Charlotte, North Carolina*. Anticipated travel dates are 7/8/25 – 7/14/25.

Gold Medal Winner Orientation

Mandatory for Parents/Guardians AND Gold Medal Winners

- Monday April 28, 2025 – 6pm at the NAACP Office

Gold Medal Winner Coaching Sessions

- Will take place May 2025 – July 2025 (Location & Time To Be Announced)
- Winners **MUST** attend a MINIMUM of THREE sessions.

National Competition - Travel Meeting #1

Mandatory for Parents/Guardians AND Gold Medal Winners

- Monday June 2, 2025 – 6:00 PM (Virtual)
- The meeting link will be emailed to the Parent/Guardian a few days prior to.

National Competition - Travel Meeting #2 (if needed)

Mandatory for Parents/Guardians AND Gold Medal Winners

- Monday July 7, 2025 – 6:00 PM (Virtual)
- The meeting link will be emailed to the Parent/Guardian a few days prior to.

For questions about the 2025 ACT-SO competition please contact:

Lynette Judge, ACT-SO Chair

Ljudge1967@gmail.com

(813) 644 - 2145

Note: The 2025 calendar of events is subject to change at the discretion of Hillsborough County Public Schools and the NAACP Hillsborough County Branch. Changes will be communicated to competition participants and their parent/guardian(s) using the provided email address.