



# EDUCATORS RISING

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ARIZONA



## Spotlight on Special Education

**Entries Per School:** 3

**State Competition:** Yes

**Participation:** Educators Rising Chapters at the Middle and High School Levels

**Competition Type:** Individual

**National Competition:** No

**This scholarship is awarded to seniors only.**

The purpose of the Spotlight on Special Education project is to promote the interest in special education occupations (teachers and related service providers) and help participants understand the impact special educators have on the lives of students. There are three (3) essential parts to the project: a video, a research paper, and a completed and signed job shadowing form that includes comments from the supervising teacher.

There is a \$1,300 scholarship to the first-place winner, renewable for up to four consecutive academic years at any public college or university in Arizona.

## **General Information**

Choose an occupation to research. Related service providers are occupational therapists (OT), physical therapists (PT), and speech/language pathologists (SLP) working in a school setting, or school psychologists. If the special education teacher category is selected, you must address only one (1) of the following five (5) certified categories:

- Early Childhood Special Education, Birth–Grade 3
- Mild/Moderate Disabilities, K–Grade 12
- Moderate/Severe Disabilities, K–Grade 12
- Hearing Impaired Special Education, Birth–Grade 12
- Visually Impaired Special Education, Birth–Grade 12

## **Research Paper**

The first element of the Spotlight on Special Education project is the research paper. The research paper provides students with the opportunity to research and learn more about aspects of a specific special education profession and the impact that has on their students.

### **As an applicant, complete the following:**

1. Contact the special education director in your district and ask them to respond to the challenges of recruiting special education personnel and document their response.
2. Choose a public college or university in Arizona you would attend to pursue this career.
3. Provide a course path you would take, including all of the required courses to become certified in your special education program area of study. For example, Fall 2021: English 101, Philosophy 101. This completed course path will encompass all quarters/semesters necessary to graduate and be ready for certification in your special education area.
4. Describe how a special education teacher or related service provider positively influences their students.

## Paper Requirements

- Information within documents a need for special education personnel in Arizona
- Illustrates how a special education or related service provider influences students
- The body of the research paper must be a minimum of 500 words in length
- Includes a cover page with student name, school, and city.
- Be double-spaced and typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font.
  - Use of proper spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar
- Identify a minimum of three (3) references
- Include a reference page using the MLA format to cite sources of information

## Research Resources

The following clickable links are research resources that may be helpful concerning your topic.

- [MLA citing resources](#)
- [Online educational database—Educational Resources Information Center \(ERIC\)](#)
- [Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\) website](#)
- [Arizona Department of Education—Special Education](#)

## Video

The second element of the Spotlight on Special Education project must be presented in a video format. The video portion will provide the student and audience with a tangible interactive experience in shadowing a special educator or related service provider. The video should include a two to three (2–3) minute interview with a local speech-language pathologist (SLP), occupational therapist (OT), or physical therapist (PT) working in a school setting, school psychologist, or special education teacher about his/her positive experiences being in the special education field. The interview should address job responsibilities, challenges, and motivations.

The video should include a three to five (3–5) minute demonstration displaying a practical, hands-on experience working with a student and commentary on why you think a special education career path might be for you. Upload your video on YouTube and provide the link on the registration form.

## **Video Technical Guidelines**

- Upload your video to YouTube and submit the link.
- Voiceovers in video must be audible. Preview your final video before submission to ensure it is clearly audible at all parts and is free of technical problems.
- Have a title screen, including the title of your video, student names & grades, competition name, and school.
- List the editing program (iMovie, MovieMaker, Final Cut Pro, etc.) in the video credits used to assemble your video.
- All source media must be cited in video credits.
- Written permissions for copyrighted material must be obtained to show video at Educators Rising State Conference and to post video on the Educators Rising website.
- All permissions obtained to use copyrighted material in video must be cited in video credits, and original permission documents must be scanned or copied and included in your submission.
- Organize and archive all source media and materials on a flash drive so they may be accessed later.

## **Job Shadowing Form**

The job shadowing experience must be with a professional connected with your research paper topic choice. The experience should total a minimum of four (4) hours, with three (3) of the hours spent with students. The Educators Rising Special Education Competition Job Shadowing Form must be completed. Have the teacher or therapist that you are shadowing complete the given Educators Rising Special Education form. Submit your Competition Job Shadowing Form, the Spotlight on Special Education Application, along with the research paper and YouTube video link.

## **Submission Information**

- Complete and submit the Educators Rising Special Education Competition Job Shadowing Form, Spotlight on Special Education Application, video link, and research paper by the indicated due date.
- Entrants grant the Arizona Educators Rising and the Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services (ESS) the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any other media without compensation.
- Entrants grant any State Department website the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes.
- Submit your Spotlight on Special Education project video link to YouTube, research paper, Educators Rising Special Education Competition Job Shadowing Form, and Spotlight on Special Education Application to [Director@edrisingaz.org](mailto:Director@edrisingaz.org).

## **Scoring Guidelines**

See the scoring rubric for specific scoring items.

## **Application**

Complete the Spotlight on Special Education Application. This application must be included with the research paper, video link, and Education Rising Special Education Completion Job Shadowing Form.

## **Spotlight on Special Education Scholarship Award**

The first-place winner will receive a \$1,300 scholarship, renewable for up to four consecutive academic years at any public college or university.

### **The Awardee Must:**

- Be a high school senior and an Educator Rising member
- Be planning to major in special education or a related field (speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, school psychology, etc.)
- A letter of commitment to achieve a degree in one (1) of the above categories and to secure employment in an Arizona school
- Be continuously enrolled full-time in an Arizona university or college (12 or more credit hours per semester or as defined by the admitting college/university) and maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA or better to maintain eligibility for the scholarship

**The scholarship is funded by the Arizona Department of Education Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS). ADE/ESS will provide the scholarship as long as federal IDEA funds are available to support this effort and the awardee maintains program requirements.**

# Special Education Competition

## Application

<b>Student Name</b>	
<b>Student Email</b>	
<b>Phone Number</b>	
<b>School Name</b>	
<b>Advisor's Name</b>	
<b>Advisor's Email</b>	
<b>Preferred College</b>	
<b>Select Your Project</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Therapist Working in a School Setting <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Therapist Working in a School Setting <input type="checkbox"/> School Psychologist <input type="checkbox"/> Speech Language Pathologist Working in a School Setting <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Teacher (Indicate certification type) <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Special Education, Birth–Grade 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Mild/Moderate Disabilities, K–Grade 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate/Severe Disabilities, K–Grade 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impaired Special Education, Birth–Grade 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Visually Impaired Special Education, Birth–Grade 12

# Special Education Competition

## Job Shadowing Form

Special Educator Teacher or Related Services Provider	
Student	
Student's School	
Student Phone Number	
Student Email Address	
Number of hours student shadowed you	
Number of hours with students	
Number of hours without students	
Please provide detailed comments as to the student applicant's activities and/or performance during the job shadowing experience:	
Signature	
Date	



# Special Education Competition

## Judge's Scoresheet

Contestant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Judges will use their discretion to assign points by evaluating the contestants via the rubrics on this scoresheet.

<b>Submitted Materials</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
Student is registered for conference and for this event on the chapter registration form.	
Student was enthusiastic, confident, and professional.	
Video uploaded to YouTube and link provided.	
Research paper was properly submitted on time.	
Project reflects purposes of Educators Rising and education professions.	
Project impact and influences on students was clearly identified.	
<b>SECTION SCORE</b>	

<b>Video Content</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
Content is clear and convincing; creative and original.	
Job shadowing form complete and uploaded with comments and signatures.	
Video has a title screen that includes the title of the video, student names & grades, competition name, and school.	
Video clearly showcases the job shadowing experience: a minimum of four (4) hours job shadowing with three (3) hours spent with students. Hands-on experience with students is evident for 3–5 minutes of the video.	
Includes a two–three (2–3) minute interview with a local therapist, school psychologist, or special education teacher about his/her experience in the special education field that is clear, concise, and evident.	
Interview captures job responsibilities, challenges, and motivations.	
Followed all technical guidelines. Use of live media in video must be under ten (10) minutes (deduct one (1) point for every ten (10) seconds over time limit). Has a video credits page citing any source media used and the editing program used.	
Commentary reflects why special education is their choice for a career.	
<b>SECTION SCORE</b>	