

MSBA MY IDEAL SCHOOL CONTEST



State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Board of Directors, MSBA Chief Executive Officer James A. MacDonald, and MSBA Executive Director Mary Pichetti, are pleased to announce the **17th Annual "My Ideal School" Contest**. The goal of the "My Ideal School" Contest is to promote discussion among students and teachers as to how thoughtful design and construction of schools in Massachusetts supports student engagement and 21st century learning.

Regional winners and 1 grand prize winner will be selected to each receive a special prize generously donated by M & T Bank. The grand prize winner will also have their "My Ideal School" Contest illustration featured on the cover of the MSBA's Annual Report.

All winners will be honored at a special awards ceremony at the Massachusetts State House. Winners will be contacted directly through their schools and their names, drawings and essays, will be posted on the MSBA's website, www.MassSchoolBuildings.org.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: ENTRIES SHOULD INCLUDE BOTH AN ILLUSTRATION AND A SHORT ESSAY

1. Student Illustration: Draw Your "Ideal School"

What would your ideal school look like? What are the most important areas of a school to you? What would your ideal school have that would engage you as a student? (Use your imagination, creativity and be colorful!)

2. Student Essay: Name 3 things that you love about your school that you would want in your "Ideal School"

What do you love about your current school? How does this affect your idea of an ideal school? How does your school inspire you to learn and do your best?

ENTRY GUIDELINES

Entrants must be in the 1st grade and attend a Massachusetts public school. Only one entry per student will be accepted. Winners will be contacted through their school's administration.

SCHOOL DRAWINGS & FORMAT

School drawings should be completely student-drawn, colorful, and submitted on an 8.5 x 11" solid white piece of paper. Drawings can be of the outside of a school or of a particular classroom(s) or activity within a school (art room, library, etc.). The student's essay should be submitted on a separate piece of paper. The essay should be no more than 60 words.

ENTRY DEADLINE: (RECEIVED BY) FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

Should you have any questions, please contact
Maria Puopolo at (617) 720-4466,
Maria.Puopolo@MassSchoolBuildings.org
or visit

www.MassSchoolBuildings.org/programs/ideal_school

MAIL ENTRIES TO:

Massachusetts School Building Authority
"My Ideal School" Contest, Attn: Maria Puopolo
10 Post Office Square, Suite S400
Boston, MA 02109



Entry Form

* Please fill out one form per student entry and staple the form at the top corner to the front of the entry.

Student's Full Name: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Zip Code: _____

School's Phone #: _____

Please submit all entries
by Friday, May 1, 2026 to:

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"My Ideal School" Contest
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Boston, MA 02109

Contact Maria Puopolo
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or visit www.MassSchoolBuildings.org

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A project of
State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg and the
Massachusetts School Building Authority



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