

Month	Action
September	Register for the year with PHSSL: Membership Application form must be completed and submitted to PHSSL office , including principal's signature and dues payment, in order to compete at PHSSL events, Drama or Speech and Debate. There is a \$25.00 late fee for registration after December 1. Schools must be registered by February 1 at the latest. No school membership into PHSSL will be accepted after this February 1 deadline. The Insurance Memo is required in order to compete at either state tournament, Drama or Speech and Debate. These forms can be found at www. PHSSL.org : Documents/Forms; Membership Application Form; Insurance Memo.
September	Contact your District Chair once you are assigned to a district by PHSSL
September	Check for District Tournament and other local tournament dates and locations for the year
September	Contact Drama Regional Coordinator, if interested, for Regional Drama Competition dates, location and registration deadline.
October	Register for Regional Drama Festival if desired Go to www.PHSSL.org Documents/Forms Regional Drama Festival Registration and Tech Form Principal Signature is required. Proof of royalty for performance is required by the day of the competition.
October	Make tentative housing arrangements for PHSSL State Drama Competition See PHSSL Website for suggested hotels
November	Drama Regional Competitions: Afterwards register for State Drama Competition if qualified. Go to www.PHSSL.org Documents/Forms State Drama Festival Registration and Tech Form Principal Signature is required. Proof of royalty for performance is required by the day of the competition. Insurance Memo must be submitted before competing at states.
December	Make tentative housing arrangements for PHSSL State Tournament. See PHSSL Website for suggested hotels All PHSSL Member schools may send 1 entry in each of the following: Student Congress - House, Impromptu Speaking, and News Broadcasting regardless of qualifying to states in other events.
January First Weekend	State Drama Competition Friday and Saturday
January 1-31	Submit one Congress Legislation for Student Congress - House competition to the PHSSL Office. Must be submitted by 1/31 in order to send a Representative to the State Tournament. Please note this is different from the Senate legislation, which is handled by the district chair, since the Senate qualifies to states through the district tournament, and every school is eligible to send a student to the state tournament in the House.

January and February	District Tournaments in Speech and Debate Be sure to follow deadlines set by the district chair for registration and changes, as well as submission of Senate legislation. Each school is allowed 2 entries per event. The registration form is at www.PHSSL.org Documents/Forms District Tournament Registration form Principal Signature is required
January and February	Register for State Tournament through Tabroom.com See directions for setting up an account on Tabroom.com under the PHSSL State Tournament site. Contact State Tournament Coordinator for Questions. Meals may be taken care of through Tabroom.com or the PHSSL State Office. Follow directions as posted.
February	School Registration with PHSSL MUST be completed by February 1. No schools will be allowed to compete at districts or states that are not registered by February 1
March	Finalize registration, meals and housing for state tournament. Registration must be done by March 1 with changes done by the Tuesday before the state tournament. Insurance Memo must be submitted before competing at states
March Third Weekend	PHSSL State Tournament for Speech and Debate Friday and Saturday.
	Items to consider for coaches
Judges	With the exception of the Drama festivals, for which judges are arranged by the league, schools are expected to bring judges to cover their entries. Usually it is 1 judge for every 2 entries in a particular debate event; Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Parliamentary and Public Forum. Public Forum judges are considered part of the speech judge pool as well. It is usually 1 judge for every four or five Congress, Speech, and Interpretation entries. Be sure to follow the directions on the invitation. At the state tournament, the Congress/Speech/Interp quota is 1:3
	The state tournament allows for the hiring of one judge by a school as long as that school is providing a judge already. Check with your district chair for the possibility of hiring judges for the district tournament.
	Judges are to be high school graduates who have been trained for the events for which they will judge. For Congress, speech and interp judges, they should expect to judge ANY of these events not just specific ones. By the time of the district tournament and state tournament, it is expected that judges have been trained and judged during the year. First time judges should be avoided at districts and states.
	HS graduates in their first year after graduation may be used per district committee approval at the district tournament. Check with your district chair. These judges may be used at states provided another judge is supplied by the school and not hired. HS graduates in their first year after graduation will only be used for preliminary rounds at the state tournament. Be sure to indicate if any of your judges are in this category when you register for the district and/or state tournament.

Informative/Persuasive Speaking	Copies of these speeches are required before the start of the district or state tournament. It is recommended that they be emailed to the state office by the Wednesday before the state tournament, but can be turned in at registration if need be. Most district tournaments collect them at registration the day of the competition.
Originals for Interpretation Events	Uncut published originals are required at PHSSL Tournaments in case of a challenge to an interpretation selection. Failure to provide this original, when challenged, may result in disqualification. It is also suggested to have a copy of the student's performance cutting as well. See PHSSL By-Laws for clarification or contact your district chair.
Deadlines	Most tournaments require registration completed by the week before the competition. Registration for the state tournament is due March 1, with changes done by the Tuesday before the competition. Most tournaments have a nuisance fee for changes done after the change deadline. Be sure to check on this before the change deadline.
Debate Topics	These are released by the National Speech and Debate Association(NSDA) depending upon the event. You can go to www.speechanddebate.org and find Current Topics on their website.
	Policy Debate - Released May of the previous school year. Resolution is used all year.
	Lincoln-Douglas Debate - Used for two months starting with Sept/Oct. Released the 1st of the month before the resolution is used. Since the state tournament will use the March/April topic, that is released February 1
	Public Forum Debate - Changes Monthly. Released the first of the month before it is used. The March topic is released February 1
	Parliamentary Debate - This is the only debate event whose topic does NOT come from the NSDA. This event uses a Prepared Motion and Topic areas for Impromptu rounds. The Prepared Motion is on the PHSSL Website in the Fall Communicator. Parliamentary Extemporaneous Topics will be released March 1
Event Rules	Check the PHSSL Website. There are ByLaws, Master Ballots and Critique Sheets for each event. These should give explanations of how an event is done and judged. Be sure to understand specifics of each event such as the type of literature allowed; i.e. Dramatic Interpretation allows Drama and Prose, but not Poetry. Informative and Persuasive Speaking have a limit of 125 and 150, respectively, words of direct quotation in the speech. Extemporaneous Speaking and Commentary allow for a notecard with at most 50 words. Feel free to check with your district chair for further explanations.
	If you are competing in the NSDA or the National Catholic Forensic League(NCFL) please remember that PHSSL rules are different in some events. Be sure your students are performing to PHSSL rules at PHSSL events. Again feel free to check with your district chair with any questions.