Martin Luther King, Jr.
State Holiday Commission

October 26, 2026

Dear West Virginia Educators:

The West Virginia Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, in collaboration with Beta Beta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is pleased to announce the 43rd Annual Poster Competition. Each year students throughout the state of West Virginia have shared their artistic abilities by submitting their entries as a way of celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The mission of the Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday Commission is to celebrate the occasion of the 43rd Annual Poster Competition by depicting the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The poster must focus on this quotation by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

"TBA."

Classroom teachers are asked to assist students in the development of original slogans/captions to be used in the development of the poster. All work must be original. If pictures are used to develop the posters, the source must be given. The famous quote must be incorporated into the artistic work. All entries must be received by Friday, December 4, 2026. Entries may be mailed to:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Contest
Attn: Patricia Wilson
PO Box 382
Institute, WV 25112

Deliveries can be made in person at the First Baptist Church, 432 Shrewsbury Street, Charleston, WV on Friday December 4, 2026 between the hours of 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Winning entries will be on display in the Great Hall of the WV Culture Center. Final information about winning entries will be sent to schools by December 18, 2026. Awards will be presented on Saturday, January 16, 2026 at TBD in Charleston, WV.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Wilson, Chairman, Awards Committee
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission
Email: wvmlk20@gmail.com

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
STATE HOLIDAY COMMISSION
43rd ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST
(Guidelines for the 2027 Celebration)

The Annual Poster Competition is designed to celebrate the life and dream of Martin Luther King, Jr. and to reaffirm the American ideals of freedom, justice, and opportunity for all.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all West Virginia residents (Students in grades K-12).
Poster size cannot exceed 36 inches by 48 inches.

FORMAT

Student entries may be in any format. The style and the selected media must be explained on the attached entry form. Entries without this information will not be judged.

MEDIA

Pencil, crayon, pen and ink, watercolor, acrylic, serigraph wood block, photography, and mixed media.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Each entrant is allowed only one entry which may not exceed these dimensions: 36 inches by 48 inches. Posters that are submitted as a joint entry (completed by two or more students) will be disqualified. All entries will become the property of the Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday Commission. All work must be original and not created from the internet. ***Print the name, grade, and school of the student on the envelope and on the back of the poster. Attach the envelope, with the completed entry form on page4) on the back of the poster. Also print the student's grade name and school on the back of the poster.*** The poster must focus on this quotation by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: "

"TBA."

AWARDS AND PRIZES

There will be three prizes (first, second and third) in each category:
Categories by Grade Level: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

CALENDAR AND DEADLINES

December 4, 2026 is the deadline for receipt of posters by mail or delivery in person. Entries must be mailed to:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Contest
West Virginia Holiday Commission
Attn: Patricia Wilson
PO Box 382
Institute, WV 25112

Entries can be delivered in person on December 4, 2026 only to:
First Baptist Church, 432 Shrewsbury Street
Charleston, WV

Hours for Delivery: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

December 7-11, 2026: Judging of entries

December 18, 2026: Notification forwarded to poster contest winners via text or email

January 16, 2027: Awards Presentation and Luncheon held at TBD.

Students with winning entries and their family members will be invited to attend the Awards Luncheon at TBD in Charleston, WV. Teachers and principals will also be invited.

Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission
2027 Poster Contest Entry Form
(DEADLINE: December 4, 2026)

(This form must be placed in an envelope and attached to the back of the poster) ALL WORK MUST BE ORIGINAL AND MUST INCORPORATE THIS THEME: The poster must focus on this quotation by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: :

"TBA." **(Please Print Legibly)**

Student's Name _____

First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name

Current Grade Level in School_____

Parent's Name_____

Home Address_____

_____

City, State, and Zip code

Cell/Home Telephone_____ **E-mail:**

School:_____

School Address_____

_____

City, State, and Zip code

School Telephone_____

Principal _____

Teacher's name _____

Teacher's Email: **Teacher's Telephone**_____

Check One Category: K-2 ____ 3-5 ____ 5-8____ 9-12 ____

Provide a description of the media used in the production of your artwork.