



## High School Competition 2026 Contest Rules

### Mathematics Algebra II and Trigonometry

**Faculty Coordinator:** Ms. Cara Sutherland, Associate Professor of Mathematics

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**On Friday, March 20, 2026, Columbia State Community College will host “High School Competition Day.”**  
Areas of competition for high school students will be Algebra II and Trigonometry.

**Registration:** Complete the online registration form for interested students. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to seeing your students and representatives on our Columbia campus on Friday, March 20, 2026. The deadline for receiving entrants is Friday, March 6, 2026.

**Eligibility:** Your school is invited to enter up to three students for each contest. Any student in grades 9-12 is eligible with two exceptions. 1) Each participant must have been enrolled in the appropriate course during the current 2025-2026 academic year: “Algebra II” for the Algebra II competition, and either “Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry” or “Precalculus” for the Trigonometry competition. 2) No student may compete in an exam in which he or she previously placed.

**Test Administration:** The competition will be based on scores from a 60-minute, 30-item multiple-choice test. The difficulty of the first 25 test questions will be suitable to the high school level. The last five questions will be the most challenging and will serve as tiebreakers, should the need arise.

**Optional Technology:** Each participant may use a hand-held calculator that is ACT-approved—see <http://www.actstudent.org/faq/calculator.html> for more information.

**Prohibited technology:** Other than the web-based applications that may be required for testing administration (such as Online Campus) and optional ACT-approved hand-held calculators, competitors are not permitted to use any online or offline resources. In particular, phones and exterior websites are prohibited from use during testing. In addition, web-application technology such as (but \*not\* limited to) PhotoMath, Mathway, and WolframAlpha are prohibited.

**Winners:** Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third places in each contest.

**Test Scores:** Each school must provide an email address to the math faculty coordinator ([CSutherland1@ColumbiaState.edu](mailto:CSutherland1@ColumbiaState.edu)) in order to receive test scores for that school’s participants.

**Still have questions?** Contact Ms. Sutherland ([CSutherland1@ColumbiaState.edu](mailto:CSutherland1@ColumbiaState.edu)) and Mr. Evers ([severs1@columbiastate.edu](mailto:severs1@columbiastate.edu)) via email for additional information.