



**Embracing Multilingualism: Shaping the Future—Every Language, Every Student**  
**MARCH 10 – 13, 2027 • LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER**

## **CABE 2027 Student Writing Award Guidelines**

The California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) is proud to announce the Student Writing Award for the CABE 2027 Annual Conference. This year's theme, Embracing Multilingualism: Shaping the Future—Every Language, Every Student, celebrates the power of multiple languages and cultures in strengthening relationships, fostering belonging, and shaping a future where every language is valued and every student is empowered to thrive. The prompt for each grade span is:

### **Grades TK-2 | My Languages Are Special**

Think about the languages you hear, speak, or are learning at home, at school, or in your community. How do languages help us learn, make friends, and understand each other? Draw a picture and/or write about why every language is special and important.

### **Grades 3-5 Prompt | Every Language Has a Place**

Our languages are an important part of who we are and help us connect with other people. How can knowing, learning, and celebrating different languages make our schools and communities better places for everyone? Share your ideas, experiences, or hopes for a future where every language is valued.

### **Grades 6-8 Prompt | Multilingualism Shapes Our Future**

Being bilingual/multilingual can help us communicate across cultures, understand different perspectives, and build connections with others. How can embracing multilingualism help create a more connected, inclusive, and understanding future? Use examples from your own life, your community, or the world to explain your ideas.

### **Grades 9-12 Prompt | Every Language, Every Student:**

Shaping the Future Language is more than a way to communicate—it carries culture, identity, history, knowledge, and ways of seeing the world. How can embracing multilingualism transform our schools, communities, and society and help shape the future we want to create? Explore the role that students and young people can play in ensuring that every language and every student is valued, respected, and empowered.

## **Writing Approach and Process**

Students are encouraged to approach their writing in an imaginative and meaningful manner, expressing themselves in English and another language. The use of the writing process is encouraged (prewriting, sharing, revising, editing, and publishing) to develop a meaningful and expressive composition. Each composition should focus on the theme and demonstrate editing and polished final presentation.

## Eligibility Criteria & Recognition

- Students must be a California residents
- All students will receive a Certificate of Participation
- The Student Writing Award Selection Committee will choose winners for each of the four grade-level categories based on the following criteria:
  - » **Content:** How effectively the writing reflects and develops the theme.
  - » **Language:** Use of authentic, expressive, and thoughtful language.
  - » **Genre:** Creative and effective use of form (essay, poetry, song, biography, short story, etc.)
- Students who have received the CABA Student Writing Award within the past three (3) years are ineligible to apply.

## Submission Deadline

All entries must be submitted through the online application by **December 3, 2026 at 11:59 PM (Pacific Time)**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. The CABA 2027 Student Writing Award recipients will be notified by **January 21, 2027**.

## Submission Requirements

- Writings must be submitted in two (2) languages: English and the student's other language
- Each language version may not exceed 750 words
- Students must be bilingual and biliterate or be learning an additional language
- The parent or guardian must acknowledge on the application that they have read, reviewed, and approved the content of the student's writing in both languages
- The parent or guardian must acknowledge on the application that they understand winning entries may be read aloud during the CABA Annual Conference and may be published or shared by CABA for recognition and promotional purposes
- Submissions must include a high-resolution head-and-shoulders photo (minimum 300 dpi)

## Award Benefits Include:

- One winner will be selected in each grade-level category.
- One (1) winner will be selected in each grade-level category.
- Winners will be invited to read their composition aloud, in one language, during the CABA 2027 Annual Conference at the Seal of Excellence Award Banquet on Friday, March 12, 2027, in Long Beach, CA.
- Each winner will receive:
  - » Four (4) banquet tickets:
    - One (1) for the student
    - Two (2) for the parent(s) or guardian(s)
    - One (1) for the classroom teacher
  - » One (1) night of hotel accommodations

## Award Amounts by Grade Level

- TK-2: \$200
- 3-5: \$300
- 6-8: \$500
- 9-12: \$1,000

## Disqualification Criteria

Submissions will be disqualified for any of the following reasons:

- The student received the CABA Student Writing Award within the past three years
- The submission is received after the deadline
- The writing is not the original work of the student
- The writing contains inappropriate language or content that violates school policy
- The submission does not meet the formatting requirements
- Either language version exceeds 750 words.