



2027 or 2028 WFCA State Tournament Bid

Return to Oshkosh!

Hosts: Oshkosh West and North High Schools and the Oshkosh Area School District

The Plan:

Congress Venue: To be determined, but likely the Winnebago County Courthouse, host of the 2023 State Congress and tentative host of the 2026 State Congress. Alternative locations: potential new Oshkosh City Hall facility or the [J.P. Coughlin Center - Oshkosh](#).

Speech Event Venues: Oshkosh North and West High Schools with shuttle buses running between.

- Preliminary rounds: both high schools. Capacity is greater than 140 rooms.

- Semifinal and final rounds: the high school with the largest available awards space will host, dependent upon selected year and facility availability.

On April 1, 2025, the voters of the Oshkosh Area School District approved a \$22.1 million new auditorium and fine arts addition for Oshkosh North High School. While construction timelines are not yet final, the new auditorium would likely not be available in 2027 but would be in 2028. The new auditorium will be a considerable structure and seat more than 1,000. It will become the Oshkosh Area School District's premier fine arts venue.

Other potential awards venues: 1) The Alberta Kimball Auditorium at Oshkosh West High School, host of the 2023 awards ceremony, which seats 1,451; 2) Oshkosh North Field House, which is a very large facility with an available portable stage. The North field house hosts several sectional rounds of athletics throughout the school year and seats more than 2,000. 3) Oshkosh West Field House, which seats 1,800.

Improvements from 2023:

While 2023 was a successful WFCA State Tournament, we strive for improvement.

1. A third shuttle bus with better staggering starting during the third round to return students to the site of the semifinals/finals.
2. Lunch pre-order option for students with food selections that can be better prepared in advance, with the goal of reducing the lunch line size and duration.

3. A later start to the semifinals, so students do not feel rushed during lunch. We can adjust the semifinal start time without delaying the final awards ceremony.

Rationale:

1. Oshkosh is the historic home of the WFCAs State Tournament.
2. The 2023 WFCAs State Tournament was a success in terms of attendance and execution.
3. Both high schools have active programs with veteran coaches. The schools combined have over 15 years' experience in hosting WFCAs regular season tournaments, the 2023 WFCAs State Tournament, multiple WISDAA Subdistrict Festivals, and North is the host of the 2026 WISDAA District 9 Festival.
4. Around 40 different teams attend either the Oshkosh West and/or Oshkosh North tournaments each season, which makes the venues familiar for many WFCAs programs.
5. The administrations of both schools are strong supporters of forensics.
6. Oshkosh is a reasonable drive for most WFCAs programs, which will not require a hotel stay for most teams.
7. Oshkosh has built multiple new hotels since 2023, including two that are within seven minutes of either high school. Multiple food options are within walking distance of the new hotels.

Common Questions:

1. *Oshkosh recently hosted. Shouldn't we go somewhere else?*

The students competing in 2027 or 2028 will not have competed at a WFCAs State Tournament in Oshkosh previously. The final group of students that competed previously in Oshkosh will graduate at the end of the next school year. It will be a new location for all students competing.

2. *WFCAs State is in Neenah in 2026. Why the greater Fox Valley area two years in a row, or two times in three years?*

The greater Fox Valley area is home to several strong WFCAs programs and within a 90-minute drive for the majority of WFCAs teams. The region is a natural choice to host the State Tournament on a regular basis.

The WFCAs has hosted State in the Madison area two years in a row: Sun Prairie West in 2024 and Vel Phillips Memorial in 2025. While in the same area, the events were in different parts of

a larger region, provided distinct experiences, and provided hosting opportunities to different programs. The same is true of Neenah and Oshkosh.

3. Won't hosting at two schools be logistically difficult?

It's an issue to work on, but we've proven that it can be done successfully. There is a limited roster of WFCAs schools with a facility large enough to host the entire tournament at one location. Even when the WFCAs State Tournament was held at Ripon College for numerous years, there were shuttle buses taking students and judges to Ripon High School and Middle School.

Oshkosh North and Oshkosh West are not geographically far apart. Both schools are on the west side of the city, just on different sides of the Fox River. They are only 3.1 miles apart. Faculty and students travel between the two schools on a regular basis, every school day.

We plan to have three shuttle buses, rather than the two utilized in 2023. About 425 students and judges can be transferred between the two buildings within 70 minutes. Shorter categories finish 20-30 minutes prior to long ones. For example, Moments in History and Expository could finish and transport all competitors from one school to the other with a bus returning for its second trip prior to Solo Humorous or Oratory finishing its round. Staggered finishes of events accommodate a wider time horizon to shuttle students and coaches. And as occurred in 2023, some teams will utilize their own transportation between the venues, which will further relieve the strain on the shuttle bus operation.

4. I had a concern or didn't like something from the 2023 tournament. I don't want to go back.

Most feedback from the 2023 tournament was positive. But we are interested in running a great tournament and benefitting our entire organization.

If there is something that you would like to see or have a suggestion for improvement, we are happy to pursue improvements. We were rookie hosts in 2023. We will be veterans in 2027 or 2028.

We like to host. We are passionate about our activity. Our interest is in serving the Association and promoting our activity! Hosting State is a lot of work, and we are ready to commit to doing it again!